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The Journal of
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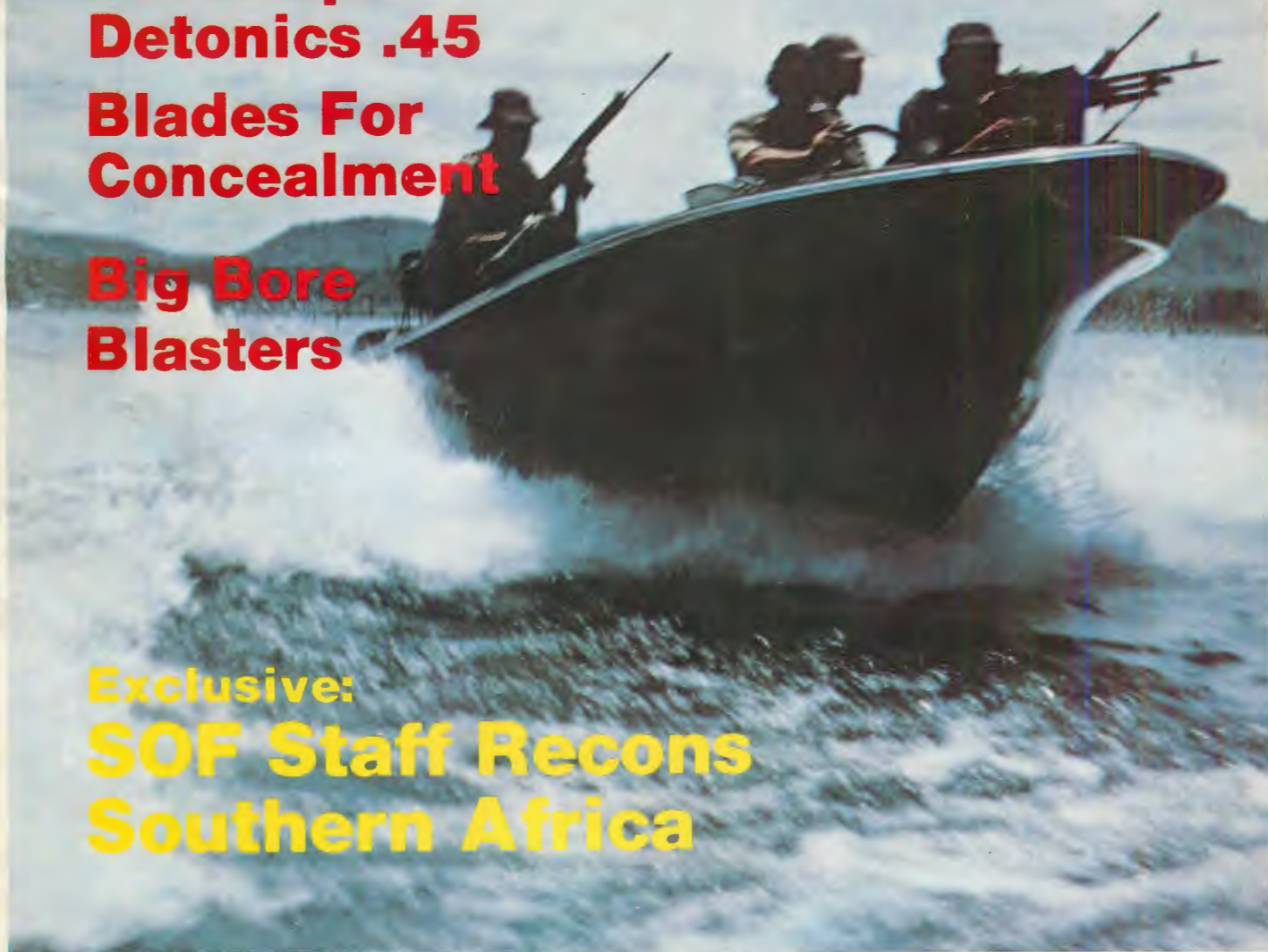
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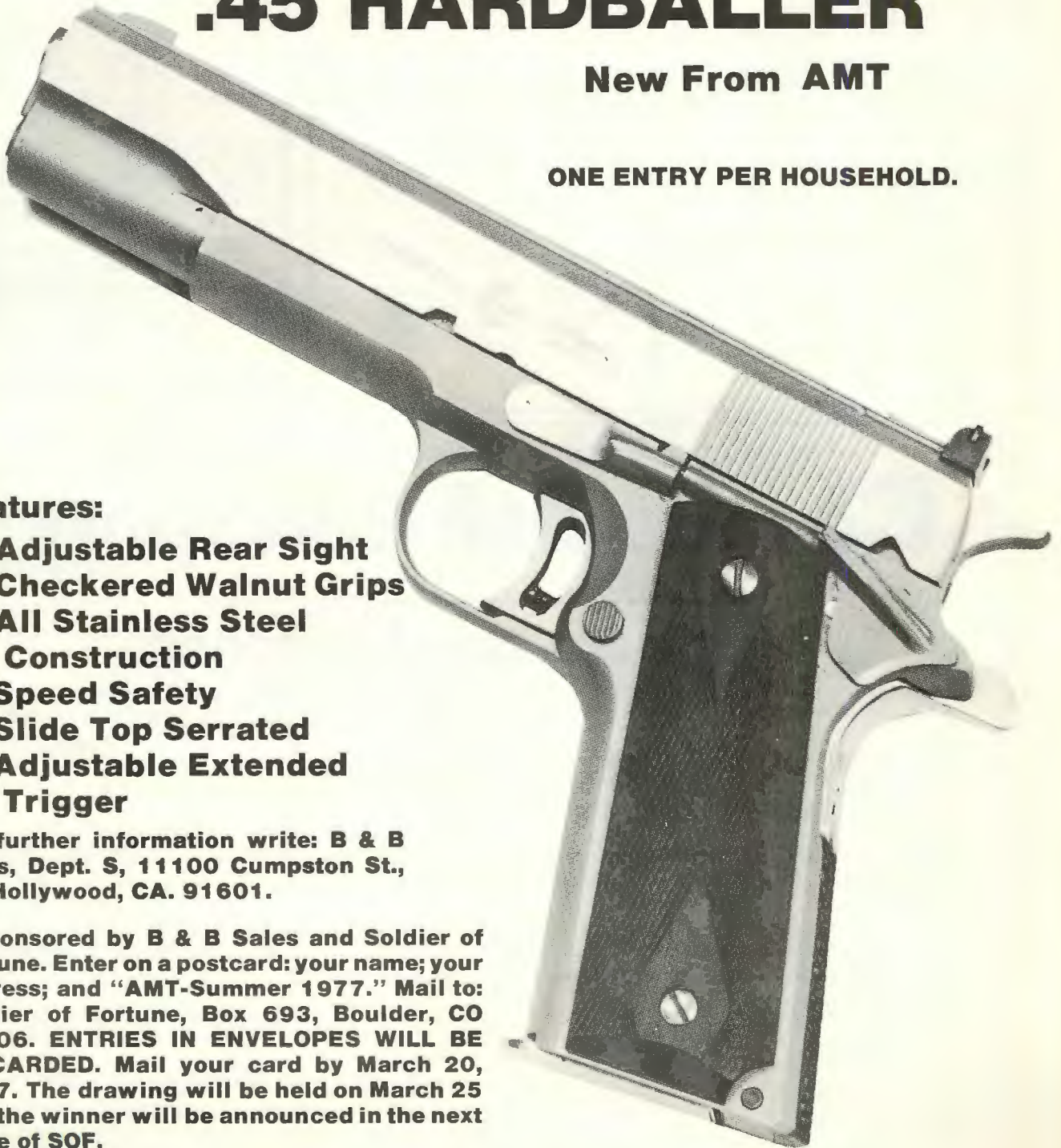
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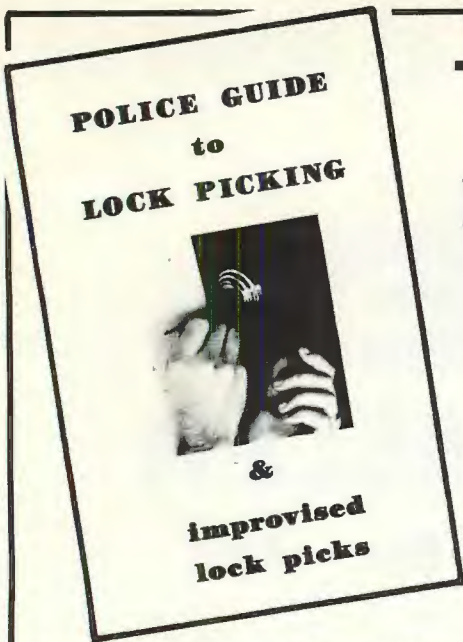
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The Journal of Professional Adventurers

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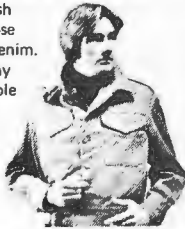
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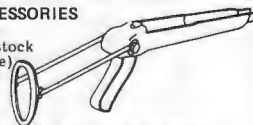
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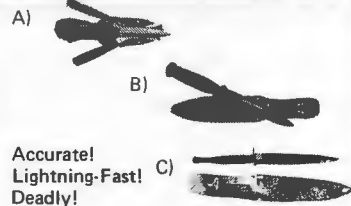
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Dear Sirs:

In answering your call in the Winter issue of *Soldier of Fortune*, for comments of the M16A1 rifle and its advantages and disadvantages — I am writing to give my observation of a particular version of this weapon, the CAR-15. I was a member of CO. G (Rangers), 75th Inf. attached to the American Division in Viet Nam from 1971 to 1972. Our AO was most of I — Corp., but I pulled missions West and between Chu Lai and Da Nang.

We operated in six man teams. All of us carried CAR-15's, except the "pig-man" who carried a sawed-off, stripped down M-60 machinegun. For someone who is not familiar with the CAR-15, the weapon was also made by Colt. The receiver group and front sight blade are the same, but that's about where it stops! The CAR-15 is a lot shorter and lighter. Because the receiver group used in the CAR-15 is the same as the one used in the M-16, the CAR was excessible to the same problems that the M-16 would experience. The stories of the weapon jamming easily, or the constant need to clean it — never happened. True, general care was required, as in all weapons, and the AO was extremely rugged on the weapon. However, with a few tricks of the trade, like taping the muzzle with black electrical tape, and always having a magazine in the mag. well, kept dirt out.

We had other weapons in the company which anyone could carry, so long as everyone on his team did not object. One of these was the AK-47, with folding stock. A few advantages the CAR-15 had over the AK was: weight (the CAR was lighter, as was its 30-round magazines), the ability to "thumb-off" the safety while your finger was on the trigger (the AK has a lever which has to be operated with the other hand). Also, the length was an advantage. Both the AK with folding stock and the CAR were about the same length, compared to the M-16 or M-14 with the CAR-15 — this was a critical factor. In our AO, the jungle was extremely thick and the mountains were steep. Our SOP called for everyone to carry the weapons "slung" from a rope or strap-sling, in assault position: finger on the trigger, thumb near the selector switch. M-16's or M-14's were too long for the jungle. Wait-a-minute vines were **always** there. Also, the weight of a fully loaded CAR (about 6.6 lbs.) is a lot lighter than the M-16 (with 30 round magazine, 8.6 lbs) or M-14 (with 20 round magazine, 11.25 lbs). In that area, every ounce was important. An advantage the CAR-15 or M-16 has over, say,

the AK-47 is fire power. The CAR's cyclic rate of fire is 700-800 rounds per minute. The AK's cyclic rate of fire is about 600 rounds per minute.

The CAR-15 does have a few disadvantages compared to weapons like the AK-47 or M-14. The CAR-15 does not have the "knock-down" power as does the AK-47. It is possible for your target to get off one more round before he/she drops, if hit by a 5.56 round. (Experience!)

Another disadvantage to the CAR-15 is the maximum effective range. With the short barrel, the effective range was around 100 meters. Again, in very thick terrain you're not engaging long distance targets. I was able to overcome this problem of limited effective range by adapting the grenade launcher of the M-203 to a CAR-15. This was strictly my idea. At that time, we often had one member on a team carry not only his CAR, but also a chopped up M-79. This was often carried in his rucksack. When you're down with six men, it was good to have every weapon capable of firing automatic.

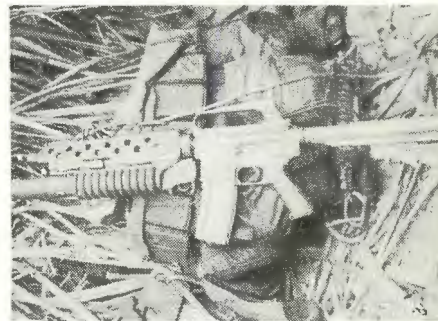
I am enclosing a snapshot of my CAR-15/Grenade launcher in the event that there may be a few subscribers who are still in "never-never land." The conversion was very simple. As far as the CAR-15 is concerned, you just remove the two handguards. For the grenade launcher, you must take its handguard, cut a slot in the top so that the front sight blade will pass through. Next, you have to cut off the front section of the grenade launcher's handguard that fits around the M-16's barrel. This is because the length of the handguard is as long as the barrel of the CAR-15, plus an additional inch of the CAR's 3 inch flash suppressor. The only other item needed is a horseshoe shaped piece of metal which secures the launcher to the barrel of the M-16. Because of the length of the launcher in relation to the CAR, it is necessary to make this item, because it must fit from the launcher around the CAR's flash suppressor, and back to the other side of the launcher. I made this item by cutting a strip from the corner of our tin roof on our hooch, and bending it into shape. Then you just bolt it into place, which would be done normally.

Now, with the mating of the grenade launcher to the CAR-15, you have a weapon which is about 33 inches long and weighs a little over 9 lbs. fully loaded. It became a very effective weapon system for thick jungle and mountainous terrain. It had the capabilities for close up fighting with the 5.56 rounds and 40 mm

"buckshot" cannister rounds, and for suppressing targets up to 400 meters with HE rounds. I also carried CS rounds and flare rounds for special uses.

I am presently in the Army Reserves, ODA-5, CO. A, 2 BN, 12th SFGA, located in Ft. Worth, Texas. Like all Reserve and National Guard units, we must use the standard M-16 or M-203. I had become spoiled on my little invention. With a little imagination, this became a damn good weapon.

A. G. "MAC" McCulloch, Jr.
2144 Oak Valley
Dallas, Texas 75232



A Note:

I hope this article is not too long for your use. If it is possible to send back the snapshot, I would appreciate it. I understand this may be impossible. I am enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope.

The snapshot is of the weapon (fully extended) leaning against my ruck. This was taken during a chow break while on a mission west of DaNang, 1971.

A. G. McCulloch, Jr.

Dear Sir,

My first issue of "Soldier Of Fortune" was the Fall issue of 1976. It is the greatest magazine I have ever read!

The first thing I read was the A. J. Venter story on the war against terrorists in Rhodesia. You should give this man more room in print. And should get more pictures of what the terrorists are doing to black and white Rhodesians!

Yours,
Thomas E. Quigley
P.O. Box 737
Portland, Oregon
97207

Dear Sir,

In your winter issue of "Soldier of Fortune," I read with interest an article about Col. Bao Lien from Loas who is in

command of Meo Tribesmen fighting against the N.V.A. there. I'm interested in contacting Col. Bao Lien for the purpose of offering my services to him to fight against the N.V.A. So if you could send me details of how and where I can contact him to offer my services as I'm a Vietnam Vet and feel very bitter in the way we let those people down and would jump at the chance to fight against the communists in Southeast Asia again.

Your's Faithfully,
B.G.
Trenton, NJ

Dear Sir,

Please try to get an update on the Angola situation.

I understand there's a hell of a guerilla operation against those Cuban bastards. I could be one hell of a help if I could get to them.

Regards on a fine magazine,
1st Sgt. R.L.
W. Monroe, LA

P.S.

Where can I obtain an HK-91, as I've never won a thing except fire-fights and that doesn't count. With enough Viet Nam Vets over there, we can kick those Cuban's asses. **I Know!!** I was also black-listed in Vietnam for 5000 Piastres.

P.S.S.

Damn a firing squad.

For a list of dealers carrying the HK-91, write Security Arms Company, Inc., Dept. S, 933 N. Kenmore St., Arlington, VA 22201.

Dear Sir,

My reason for writing you is to say that since my arrival home from Viet Nam in 1970 I have yet to experience the pleasure or satisfaction again that I received over there knowing that I was fighting against communistic take-over. For me to read your articles on Mercs, doing the same throughout the world, whether it be for money or other reasons, the outcome is the same. That is, they prove that not all people in this world are stupid enough or afraid to pick up weapons to stop those factions whose sole purpose is to dominate people and countries through terroristic tactics. To see people like Danny Gearhart, George Bacon, Gary Acker, and Capt. Oates (FNLA) resist such take-overs is extremely stimulating.

I've been thinking of this type of employment myself for quite some time now. I'm an ex-Marine with combat duty in Viet Nam with 34 fire-fights, including combat during the Tet Offensive. My training includes, Paratrooper small arms, close combat and my job was small arms instructing. I've never made any effort to inquire into information concerning what to do to become a "Mercenary." I would appreciate any help or leads you can give me concerning this problem.

Again my compliments to you and your staff on a fine job.

Thank you,
D.S.A.
White Oak, PA

Dear D.S.A.

As we have noted in previous issues, "Merc" opportunities are few and far

between. As we go to press the only opportunity to fight communist sponsored terrorism is with the Rhodesian Army and this is no "merc" job. We keep readers of "Soldier of Fortune" advised of merc opportunities as they become known.

Sincerely,
Robert K. Brown

Dear Sir,

I just received my "Winter '77" issue of "Soldier of Fortune" and like usual, it's great, outstanding even!

For many years I have always thought (personally) that communists (home grown or foreign) were backwards. Well, you proved it when you printed the photo on page 6. The Ambassador from ABUC is photographic proof that they are.

Your interview with Sir Robert Thompson was great, however that is a CAR-15 not a CAR-16 on page 15, the USAF call it a "SMG model GAU-5A/A" but who can say that when we all know it is a CAR-15. Having carried and used one during most of my 6 years in SEA. I must say it is a fantastic little weapon. In all the use I put mine through I never once had a malfunction. The only disadvantage to it was that the short 10" barrel tended to heat up awfully fast when you pumped them through full-auto.

Speaking of the AR-15/M-16 family of weapons, I'd like to remind Mr. Meachan that the "Colt" M-16 is an "Armalite." Eugene Stoner developed them and Colt has the rights to manufacture it, but the

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AR-15, M-16 and the AR-18 (AR-180) as well as the AR-16 etc. are "Armalite's!" Perhaps now once-removed, but still "Armalite's."

Until Later.
S. D. H.
Hampton, VA

Dear Sir,

I have been reading your magazine for the last two issues and I want to send this letter along with my chance for the H&K P9S you will be giving away soon and tell you that it is good to see a magazine such as "Soldier of Fortune" on the newstands. From what I have been able to see, you appear to report good, factual stories that one does not always read in the normal news channels. Sort of like presenting "The Rest of The Story" that one sometimes just barely catches an earful of on the T.V. or Radio or the newspapers.

I am pleased to buy the magazine and pleased to read it. Keep up the good work. A great many of us out here whose hearts still have a desire for the type of life you tell about and are behind you 100%.

C.E.C.
Jackson Gap, AL

Dear Sirs:

In regard to Micheal F. Meacham's comments concerning the M-16. It's very popular these days, as it is after every conflict, to evaluate the weapons of each side. And it always seems that "the other side's was better" or that what we had before was better than it's replacement. This has been common since the days of cavalry charges and especially in light of the recent trend toward reduced calibers (5.56mm).

The M1 Garrand, for example, touted by General George Patton as the battlefield's greatest implement, had a tendency to jam on the seventh round and also, when fired in rainy conditions. These problems were subsequently corrected, and many M1's were used successfully up to and including Viet Nam.

The M-16 has received much criticism for its direct gas system of operation, which causes jams when the weapon is not properly cleaned to remove residue from the chamber area. I don't know of a professional combat soldier worth his salt who considers cleaning his rifle regularly a chore. In addition, chrome plated chambers and an improved recoil/buffer spring and a belt assist lever aided in preventing jams. It should be noted that all rifles in 5.56 are more likely to jam than their 7.62 counterparts, because of closer design tolerances involved.

Of course, many soldiers like the idea of a folding stock for the many times when parachuting, building clearance, or playing Machine Gun Kelly is required. The AR-180, with it's folding stock, reflects a design blunder: the stock folds to

the left of the weapon, making engaging the stock by right handed shooters a clumsy, if not impossible, operation.

In short, the M-16, like the M1 had it's faults which showed up in combat. The M-16 was ideal for the type of fighting involved and it's direct gas system made possible a lightweight weapon for soldiers of short stature, in addition to allowing a soldier to carry many more rounds of ammunition than would be possible in 7.62. The M-16 is also amazingly more accurate than its predecessors and is much more so than the Soviet AK-47.

Any weapon introduced into as massive usage as was the M-16 would reflect many problems, simply because of the fact that it was used under such a wide variety of conditions by such a wide variety of soldiers.

Certainly, many "modern day" designs are superior to the M-16 but not vastly so. These new weapons are "second generation" and reflect what has been learned with earlier 5.56mm weapons. The AR-180, the Israeli Galil and the H&K 93 all warrant consideration, but the M-16A1 is a totally acceptable combat weapon for today's modern battlefield.

Sincerely yours,
Joseph D. Hall
Gainsville,
Florida

Gentlemen:

Re: Meacham's letter (Vol. 2, No. 1) suggesting a better weapon than M-16/AR-15. It certainly isn't the AR 180/AR 18.

Personal experience with the 180 indicates a poor track record due to ammo malfunctions. Running out of ammo one day at the range that had seen thousands of rounds fire through 180's, I found a large coffee can in the range shack full of assorted bent and dented military 5.56 rounds. All were malfunctions from the 180's, either from normal feeding or "Operator Malfunction." None would feed into the 180. All cycled through my AR-15 without a bobble. That alone would have sold me if I hadn't had sour memories of live rounds jammed between the guiderods in the upper receiver.

Also, try running some "soft point" through a 180 sometime. Chances are you won't be happy.

My knowledge of the Galil is limited to the S.O.F. report and a short film clip of a demo; but the HK 33 and Valmet 5.56 are no better than the "16;" these I have fired and I am not impressed.

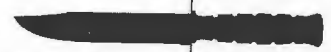
F. W. Dickey
Santa Barbara,
California

continued on page 62

U. S. MILITARY KNIVES

All these were made for the U.S. Armed Forces, they are not foreign copies. You might note that some companies who advertised these type knives for a whole lot less don't tell where they're made. Of course, their motto is: "Caveat Emptor", ours is "Satisfaction or your money back." All these knives are brand new.

Marine Corps Survival Knife



Marine Corps Survival Knife: This has a 7" blade so strong that $\frac{3}{4}$ " of it can be clamped in a vise and a 185 lb. man can sit on the handle without breaking the tip! The handle and sheath are treated with preservative to prevent fungus, rot, etc. \$10.50 each. Order No. 5684.

Air Force Survival Knife



Air Force Survival Knife, 5" blade, just as tough as the Marine knife above; this one has a saw back blade, and a hammer butt (you use it when the knife's in the sheath). The sheath has a lanyard and sharpening stone in a pouch. The sheath is metal tipped. \$9.50. Order No. OKP-1.

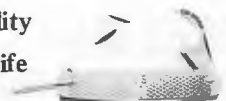
U. S. Army Machete



Machete, made by Ontario for the U.S. Army; 18" parkerized blade, marked with the manufacturer's name and "US." These are right out of the factory wrap, without sheaths. \$6.50 each. Order No. OKM-1.

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bulletins . . .

PANAMA: CUBANS EN ROUTE TO PERU

"US government sources have reluctantly confirmed recent Washington rumors that Cuban troops, of an undisclosed number, have been identified in Panama," according to the authoritative publication Defense & Foreign Affairs Daily.

"The first unofficial reports of a Cuban military presence in the area came from a commercial pilot who claimed to have observed a Soviet transporter on two occasions at a remote airfield used for 'touch and go' practice, but otherwise thought to be deserted."

The Daily stated that the "first observation was during daylight hours when a large group of men in civilian clothes, but disembarking in military formation, were seen. The second sighting was during evening hours when troops, outfitted with jungle uniforms and carrying weapons, were unloaded from a similar Soviet transporter."

According to the Daily, "US intelligence officers in the Canal Zone have reportedly been instructed not to com-

ment on these sightings. However, upon being confronted with the information, one US government source indicated that Cuban troops are known to be in transit to Peru via shuttle bases in Panama."

"Coinciding with this report was information from other reliable sources that blacks in civilian clothes have been observed in Panama." The Daily's feeling is that "these troops are Angolans in view of the fact that they speak Portuguese."

The publication's report ends with the fact that "Washington sources offer no confirmation that these Cuban forces are to be left in Panama. In addition, civilian observers claim that some 3,500 Cuban combat troops have been secretly flown into the Zone."

ARE YOU HELPING TO FINANCE TERRORISTS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA?

Millions of unwitting Americans have been contributing funds to such African terrorists groups as the MPLA, SWAPO, ZANU, and ZAPU through the World Council of Churches. Believing that their donations are to be used in the support of Christianity throughout the world, approximately 35 million American church members contribute funds to their local churches, a portion of which ends up in the hands of these Marxist terrorist organizations.

The World Council of Churches (WCC) describes itself as an "organization devoted to building Christian solidarity . . . and the Ecumenical Revolution." The WCC has almost 250 member churches in over 90 nations representing 28 denominations and 350 million Christians.

The WCC's "Special Fund to Combat Racism" has, since 1970, contributed over \$1,000,000 to a wide assortment of communist terrorist groups in Africa and to Marxist groups in the United States. In 1973, the WCC gave \$2,000,000 to North Vietnam and \$1,000,000 to Laos and Cambodia. While the WCC has been extremely vocal in protesting against the South Vietnamese, South Africa and Rhodesian governments, they have never found cause to criticize in any Marxist government.

A primary reason for the WCC's anti-democratic stance and its lack of concern for freedom and human rights is due to the Soviet's ability to control the WCC through one of the Council's six presidents: Boris Nikodim — a Soviet citizen who has been identified by a KGB defector as a high-ranking KGB officer. Another reason is that most of the

Council's top officials are admittedly pro-Marxist and believers in the new "Theology of Liberation" which supports the contention that Christianity and communism are essentially harmonious.

Former U.S. Ambassador to South Vietnam and the current director of the American Security Council, Eldridge Durbrow has made statements revealing the true status of the WCC. He said, "Americans who support the WCC think they're contributing to world peace — sadly, they don't realize they are contributing to the communist cause."

Another religious organization active in the international war against the Rhodesian people is the United Church of Christ. They were recently awarded \$25,000 by a domestic Marxist group known as the "People's Bicentennial Commission" for their work with a clandestine South African terrorist group called "OKHELA" in revealing how Mobil Oil allegedly found a tricky route through U.N. sanctions against Rhodesia, enabling Mobil to supply the Rhodesians with critically needed oil and gasoline. The United Church of Christ has received \$10,000 and will receive the remaining \$15,000 "upon the conviction of any top Mobil executive."

SOF STAFF NOTES . . .

Nick Ladas, SOF SWAT Editor has recently graduated from the Smith and Wesson Armorer's School and Workshop, the Colt Armorer's and Workshop and the Dan Wesson's Armorer's School and Workshop. John Donovan, a Captain in the 12th Special Forces Group, has been appointed SOF Explosives and Demo Editor. Donovan owns Donovan's Dynenuting, a firm specializing in commercial demolition.

GENERAL VANG PAO . . .

General Vang Pao, leader of the anti-communist Meo tribe in Laos, is presently located in Bitterroot, Montana, where he has purchased a 360 acre farm. Approximately 100 of his staff and dependents are also settled in the Bitterroot area.

LINEBACKER II . . .

A writer is compiling a history of air operations over Hanoi during December 1972. Any persons involved or having knowledge of Linebacker II operations, please contact Dana Drenkowski, 343 Van Gordon St., #15-183, Lakewood, Colorado 80228. Interested in combat tapes, photos, stories, maps, etc. . . .

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MERC LAW . . .

Robert L. Keuch, Deputy Assistant Attorney General stated the following before the Special Subcommittee on International Relations, House of Representatives:

The principal statute covering the matter of enlistment or recruiting within the United States is contained in Title 18, Chapter 45 (Foreign Relations), of the United States Code. Specifically, 18 U.S.C. SS959 (a) provides, in pertinent part, that:

Whoever, within the United States, . . . hires or retains another to enlist . . . in the service of any foreign . . . state, . . . as a soldier . . . shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.

Thus, Section 959 prohibits the enlistment or recruitment **within the United States** of any person for service in the armed forces of a foreign country. **Gayon v. McCarthy**, 252 U.S. 171 (1920). In addition, Section 958 prohibits a United States citizen from accepting and exercising a commission in a foreign service in a war against a foreign nation with which the United States is at peace. Section 960 prohibits the launching of a military or naval expedition from the United States against any nation which the United States is at peace. With regard to the application of these statutes, it should be emphasized that, **in general, it is not unlawful for a citizen or other person in the United States to leave the country with the intent to enlist abroad in a foreign military service.** See **Wilborg v. United States**, 163 U.S. 632 (1896).

In addition to the statutes I have cited, 8 U.S.C. SS1481 (a) (3) provides that any citizen of the United States who enters the armed forces of a foreign state, without the written authorization of the Secretaries of State and Defense, shall lose his citizenship. This provision, however, must be read in the light of the Supreme Court's decision in **Afroyim v.**

Rusk, 387 U.S. 253 (1967), which held that an act of Congress could not divest a person of his United States citizenship absent voluntary abandonment thereof by the citizen himself. Thus, a declaration of intent clearer than mere enlistment in a foreign army is required for an effective renunciation of citizenship, notwithstanding the provisions of 8 U.S.C. SS1481 (a) (3). **Therefore, despite assertions to the contrary, service as a mercenary does not cause the loss of United States citizenship.**

In connection with the activities of any foreign agent who may be involved in enlistment or recruitment within the United States, the provisions of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (22 U.S.C. SS611, et seq.) would apply. For example, a registered agent who willfully fails to report an activity such as recruiting would be liable to criminal penalties. 22 U.S.C. SS618 (a) (2). Any individual who within the United States dispenses any money for or in the interest of a foreign principal also comes within the Act. 22 U.S.C. SS611 (c) (iii).

These generally are the provisions of law currently governing any attempts at enlistment or recruitment within the United States. In that connection, I might point out that the "Criminal Justice Reform Act of 1975" (S. 1), specifically Section 1203, has some revisions in connection with these activities.

With regard to the Justice Department's actions in this matter, I cannot comment specifically on any individual or investigation. However, I am authorized to say that, beginning in the late fall of 1975, when the news media began to report alleged recruitment attempts, we have ordered the FBI to investigate every such allegation. The results of the FBI's investigations have been and are being reported to the Criminal Division which has the responsibility for the enforcement of the statutes I have cited. I can assure you that in those instances where the investigation indicates a possible violation of federal law, we will take appropriate prosecutive action.

End of Statement

AMERICAN PISTOL INSTITUTE. . .

The Colorado Pistol League and SOF will sponsor the U.S. National Qualification Matches for the International Pistol Shooting Confederation (IPSC). The IPSC World Championships will be held in Rhodesia in August 1977.

For information regarding IPSC/API clubs in your area write: Jeff Cooper, American Pistol Institute, Box 401, Paulden, Arizona 86334 or SOF.

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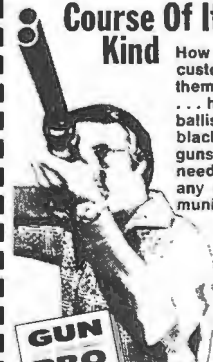
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Terrain and Situation - No. 3

by Jerry Ahern

All three items discussed here have more than one purpose in the urban or wilderness survival context. The first is the Bowen Survivor Belt Knife, a single-edged stainless steel utility knife measuring just under three inches in length. Its most interesting feature is that when not in use, it slips into a built-in sheath on a sturdy one and five-eighths-inch belt, and serves and looks like an ordinary belt buckle.

For the outdoorsman who has to travel light or the urban dweller or police officer who wants a knife available to him but can't or won't tolerate a sheath knife and dislikes a hefty lockblade folder bulging his pockets, it is ideal. Unless someone is quite familiar with the product, it is unlikely the knife will be detected unless brought into use.

For defense in a sudden attack, it can be quickly whipped from its moorings and brought into sudden action, with much less bother than getting the standard lockblade folder into use.

From a purely utilitarian standpoint it makes for one less item to carry in your pockets, can be used as a cap lifter, and even hold up your pants at the same time. The upper surface of the blade, measuring an eighth of an inch in width, and the rear face of the buckle have a matte finish, whereas the front face and blade are polished. In use, the Bowen Survivor Belt Knife would be held like a push dagger.

A double-edged version is also available, better perhaps in a fight but not as useful in everyday work. Also, in most areas, the single-edged variety is sufficiently legal to avoid a concealed weapons charge.

It is available by mail from several sources for about thirty dollars, belt included. The Survivor Belt is manufactured by Bowen Knife Co., Route 3, Box 3245, Blackshear, GA. 31501.

Another double-duty item that is immensely useful on the belt, in the pack or glove compartment or to the police officer, is the PRO-LIGHT Mini Light, measuring just five and one-half inches in length and about one and one-eighth inches in diameter, with a weight of just three ounces. It is an aircraft aluminum twist on double battery flashlight, so constructed as to throw a beam measuring considerably greater in diameter at equal distances than average pen lights. The Mini Light has still another function: the bulb is recessed over an eighth of an inch from the face of the light, surrounded by highly-polished reflecting surfaces. In addition to the bulb not being exposed to impact and its added life under rugged use, either end of the light also makes for

an exceedingly effective striking surface. Hence, the flashlight becomes a karate stick. For the plainclothes police officer who often needs a flashlight and can always use an extra weapon, it is ideal. In much the same context, the Mini Light is equally suited for the military man in the field.

Available as an accessory and also highly recommended — is the Mini Light Holder, similar in construction to a mace holder and fitted with a sturdy belt loop, featuring a desirable one-way snap for a fast on and off, while still insuring against loss. The holder is of good heavy leather and is lock stitched and should prove durable. The light is available for about ten dollars from VSI Recreation, Dept. S, 1410 East Walnut Ave., Fullerton, CA 92631 or from police equipment dealers. However, one word of caution: because of the twist-on nature of the light, if not handled properly, your batteries could die before you know it. I'd recommend storing the light with the batteries out and then checking them when at all possible before taking it afield, keeping a reserve set available for back-up.

.....

This last pair of items from Thermos Products can't be restricted to double or even triple-duty. Their versatility depends on the situation you are in and the powers of your imagination. The first item is the well-known Space Brand Emergency Blanket - heat reflecting, waterproof and wind proof, an expendable designed for emergency survival only. The radar reflective blanket opens to a size of 56" x 84" and reflects 90% of your body heat back to you under even the most adverse conditions. Weighing in at just two ounces, and less than 5" x 2½" x 1½" in size, unopened, it can be packed anywhere. It can be tossed into a jacket pocket, even when venturing a short distance from camp.

A similar product from Thermos, but also designed to be re-useable, is the All Weather Sportsman's Blanket, constructed of an aluminized plastic film laminated on both sides of the fiber scrim for strength. It reflects 80% of body heat for warming or 80% of solar heat when used as a sunshade. Measuring over 32 square feet when opened, it, too, is waterproof, wind-proof and soil-resistant. It can be wiped clean with a damp cloth, will not crack, peel or chip, weighs only twelve ounces and has rustproof, reinforced grommetted corners. When folded in its Zip Lock plastic carrying case, it measures approximately 10" x 8" x 3" shade, for emergency warmth, as a ground cloth or

or wind-breaker, it is unmatched for lightweightness, effectiveness and durability. The Space Emergency Blanket retails for about \$1.95, while the Sportsman's Blanket goes for \$7.95. Both are available from Thermos Div., King-Seeley Thermos Co., Norwich, CT 06360, and are sold through most outdoor equipment, backpacking or similar shops. Both items should find a permanent place in your gear.

With Jimmy Carter recently elected, it is now the logical time for all persons having anything to do with firearms to join with the National Rifle Association, The Citizens' Committee For The Right To Keep and Bear Arms and other responsible pro-gun organizations. Such steps would demonstrate to the new President, that one of the big reasons his margin was so slim, that he failed dismally in the western states and that the Massachusetts' anti-handgun referendum was defeated, is because the vast majority of the American people do not want legalized theft of handguns. Eventually all guns might be banned, under the guise of confiscatory laws urged into passage through the pressure of logically groundless emotional rhetoric, so do something constructive, now!

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We want to give you a taste of the tone and style of HUMAN EVENTS. The best way is simply to list some of the bylines from recent issues:

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Holmes Alexander	John D. Lofton
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Prof. Anthony Bouscaren	Kevin P. Phillips
Sen. James L. Buckley	Prof. Stefan T. Possony
Sen. Harry F. Byrd	Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr.
John Chamberlain	Dr. Max Rafferty
Rep. Phil Crane	Leonard E. Read
Ralph de Toledano	Gov. Ronald Reagan
Edith Efron	Victor Riesel
M. Stanton Evans	Prof. Murray N. Rothbard
Lawrence Fertig	Rep. John Rousselot
Victor Gold	Morrie Ryskind
Sen. Barry Goldwater	Jeffrey St. John
Jeffrey Hart	Prof. Hans F. Sennholz
Paul Harvey	Phyllis Schlafly
Henry Hazlitt	John Schmitz
Jenkin Lloyd Jones	Henry J. Taylor
James J. Kilpatrick	Sen. Strom Thurmond
Russell Kirk	Sen. John Tower

And here are just a few of their headline articles:

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 THE FOOD STAMP RACKET
 STRANGE WHITE HOUSE OPERATIONS
 A NEW VOICE FOR FREE ENTERPRISE
 HYPOCRISY AT THE UNITED NATIONS
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 A SKEPTICAL LOOK AT FORD'S ANTI-INFLATION PLANS
 WHO IS WINNING WORLD WAR III?
 NEW DRIVE FOR ANTI-BUSING AMENDMENT
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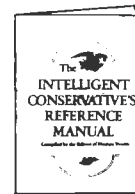
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reviews...

90 Minutes At Entebbe, by William Stevenson, with Material from Uri Dan, Bantam Books (Paperback), \$1.95.

Instant histories have a well-deserved shabby reputation, but for the wrong reasons. They are generally condemned for lack of historical perspective, which is unfair, since the real purpose of the genre (apart from the fast buck motive) is to evoke the ambience surrounding historic episodes and reflect the public perception of them at the time they occurred. In other words, instant histories can serve as a source material for fresh-perked histories.

The real trespasses of the instant historian are journalistic sloppiness, inattention to detail, errors of fact, and all the other things apprentice journalists get chewed out for by assistant city editors. There is no reason why the instant historian, who has days, sometimes even a couple of weeks to work off a short book, can't be at least as accurate as the correspondents who covered the fight in the first place (instant histories are always about fights).

At any rate, this account by William Stevenson of Israel's rescue of the Air France hostages from the Entebbe airport is better than most. Stevenson presently has a book on the best-seller list (*A Man Called Intrepid*) and has extensive contacts in Israel. (He is the author of *Zanek! A Chronicle of the Israeli Air Force*, and *Strike Zion*, a quickie on the Six Day War.) He was in Israel at the time of the raid.

Stevenson provided little in the way of new information on the raid, but did put together the first reasonably coherent account of the operation to appear in English. We learn, for instance, that the raiding party included four C-130s. General Binyamin Peled, commander of the Israeli Air Force Hercules was in one of them, and two 707's, the latter for support and communications. The first Hercules landed on a brightly lit runway

and disgorged a Merc resembling that of Urganan dictator Idi Amin. The car stopped at the guard post by the old control tower, and the security guards saluted before dying.

One reason the terrorists had as little warning as they did was that the first raiding plane taxied to a point directly in front of the old terminal building, where the 103 hostages were held. The description suggests that Gabriele Kroche-Tiedemann, the German woman terrorist the hostages nicknamed "The Nazi Bitch" had no inkling of what was happening until seconds before an Israeli soldier emptied the entire magazine clip of his submachine gun into her.

Contrary to the published reports at the time, Stevenson says the raiders took nearly all of their equipment back with them. The exception was a \$1 million fuel pump, which was to be used to refuel the planes from Entebbe stocks if necessary. It was abandoned to make space for Russian equipment taken from the quarters of Palestinian pilots learning to fly Ugandan Migs, Stevenson says.

The most revealing part of the work has little to do with the military or intelligence workings of the raid, but with its motivation. The decision to pursue the military solution, Stevenson makes clear, came when the hijackers made a *Selekzia*, a separation of the passengers into two groups, Jews and non-Jews, as had been done in the Nazi death camps. Israel also received intelligence indicating that the terrorists intended to begin executing hijackers at dawn on July 4 (the raid was the previous midnight).

Israel is a country far more haunted by the holocaust than it cares to admit, and Stevenson maintains that when word of the release of the non-Jewish hostages reached the country, a national consensus formed which made the military solution the only real option. The point is entirely believable, and is crucial to any understanding of what makes Israel tick.

Several years ago, Israelis used to tell visitors of the high school class that was studying Hitler's death camps which had only one question for the teacher. "Where was the Israeli Air Force?"

Against such a background, the Israeli reaction to the raid can be understood as something far deeper than elation at regaining some of the military self-confidence shaken during the Yom Kippur War. After 2,000 years, the posse finally got there in the nick of time.

The most interesting detail in the book is Stevenson's assertion that the raiders took three terrorists alive and brought them back to Israel. Official accounts have always maintained that three of the terrorists escaped. Stevenson does not elaborate on the assertion, and it has never been corroborated, but given his sources, it can't be dismissed out of hand.



The Raid, by Benjamin F. Schemmer, Harper & Row, \$10.95.

Undoubtedly the most meticulously planned and rehearsed raid of the Vietnam war was the Son Tay prison raid in November 1970.

Author Schemmer, a West Point graduate and editor and publisher of the *Armed Forces Journal* has put together over a five year period a detailed, objective narrative which reads like a best-selling adventure novel.

Air Force photo interpreters early in 1970 discovered held at Son Tay, had laid out a coded message by arranging laundry and trampling out letters in the dirt. Schemmer describes how the operation materialized; how personnel and equipment were selected and the hassles in getting both approval and cooperation from various bureaucrats.

After months of planning, rehearsing and soul-searching, the raid was launched and completed without the loss of a single participant. Within the 27 minutes allocated to complete their mission, the hand-picked Special Forces team blasted their way into the prison and withdrew. But there were no POW's! They had been moved before due to floods, ironically caused in part by U.S. covert rain-making missions.

The raid was not without its positive results, as one of the assault teams landed in the wrong compound and ended up wasting 200 Russian or Chinese advisors.

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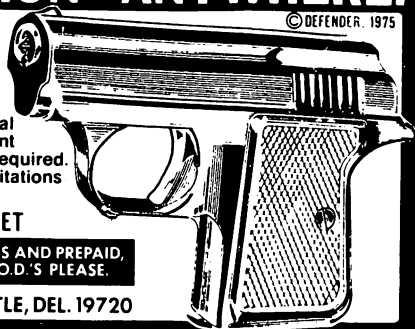
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SOF INTERVIEW

MAJOR NICK LAMPRECHT

RHODESIAN RECRUITING OFFICER

Over the past 18 months, increasing numbers of SOF readers have expressed interest in the terrorist war in Rhodesia, and service in the Rhodesian armed forces. Press reports speculate that anywhere from 250 to 400 Americans have enlisted. In order to dispell a number of misconceptions concerning service with the Rhodesian forces, SOF Publisher/Editor Robert K. Brown interviewed Major Lamprecht, Recruiting Officer for the Rhodesian Army, in Salisbury, Rhodesia. The interview follows:

SOF: What type of individuals are you seeking to recruit for the Rhodesian Army?

LAMPRECHT: Obviously, we prefer young men, and we have vacancies in most branches (Americans are presently serving in the Rhodesian Right Infantry, Special Air Services, Corps of Engineers and the Armoured Corps-Ed.) The bulk of vacancies exist in the infantry and that is why we prefer younger men. They must be physically fit.

SOF: Do volunteers have to have previous military experience?

LAMPRECHT: No. In fact, we prefer to enlist the young man who has had no previous military experience.

SOF: Why?

LAMPRECHT: It is far easier to take an untrained individual and mould him to our own needs. Experienced veterans from other armies have preconceived ideas and find some difficulty in adjusting to local conditions. It is also difficult for a veteran to adjust to being treated as a recruit. We cannot give everyone individual treatment. Often veterans resent being treated like recruits. Yet, we cannot send a man to an operational area unless we are positive he can do the job. I emphasize to the new recruit that we operate differently, that they have to adjust just as we would if we joined the U.S. Army. They agree and promptly forget. However, the more mature chaps accept it.

SOF: What is your attitude toward Vietnam veterans?

LAMPRECHT: This often poses a problem. When a Vietnam veteran, highly decorated and of high rank arrives, it's difficult for us to offer rank until we can evaluate his capabilities. If he proves himself, he will be promoted within six months. However, all volunteers for the Special Air Squadron start off as troopers. And this occasionally creates problems as many veterans expect to grab an FN, jump in the back of a land rover and take off for the bush. We cannot allow this. They must learn our methods and tactics.

SOF: The terrorists and their supporters have characterized the foreigners that have joined your army as "mercenaries." Would you comment on this?

LAMPRECHT: I would challenge you or anyone else to produce a single mercenary in the Rhodesian Army. Even one. Everyone joins our army under the same conditions and for three years. All are regular soldiers. All receive the same pay, the same type of equipment. There is no difference between an American joining the Rhodesian Army than there would be if a Rhodesian would join the U.S. Army.

SOF: Where do the majority of the foreign volunteers come from?

LAMPRECHT: The United States and England, though we have volunteers from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, as well as most western European countries. Over the last two years, recruiting has come alive. We receive numerous applications everyday from all over the world.

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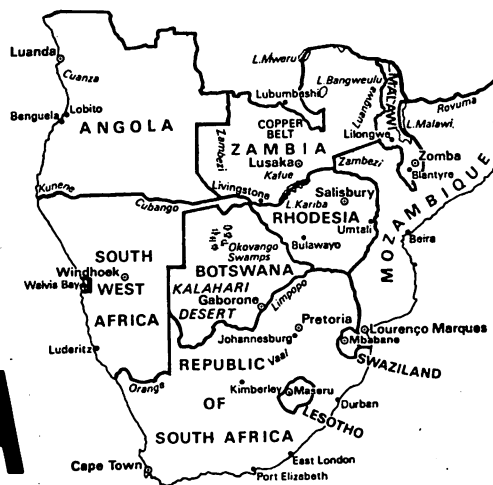
"There is no difference between an American joining the Rhodesian Army than a Rhodesian joining the U.S. Army."



"Many Vietnam veterans arrive here expecting to grab an FN jump into a Land Rover and take off for the bush."

SOF RECON:

ACTION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



As Southern Africa offers some of the most interesting and intriguing opportunities for the professional adventurer, "Soldier Of Fortune" decided to send a team of staff members for an on-the-spot evaluation.

Editor/Publisher R. K. Brown, Explosives and Demo Editor John Donovan, and Roving Correspondent Ralph Edens (who "roved" over Port au Prince, Haiti in 1969, napalaming the presidential Palace from a Super Constellation) laid over a day in Rio de Janeiro. Brown and Edens managed to get stoned by a couple of shoe shine boys; Donovan was rudely dumped off in the stums by a cab driver who didn't like gringos. So much for Rio.

Our intrepid crew linked up with "Soldier Of Fortune" African correspondent Al J. Venter in Johannesburg, where they agreed it might be more adventuresome to travel by vehicle to Salisbury than Air Rhodesia. At the Rhodesian border, customs officials indicated that there had been no ambushes in the area so they decided to proceed north without the benefit of convoy. Anyway, it would be interesting to see if the terrorists' markmanship was as bad as reported.

Unfortunately, they arrived in Salisbury without incident though their adrenalin level rose whenever they encountered cattle or sheep on the highway, as terrorists often block roads with livestock in conjunction with ambushes. Their report follows:

In Salisbury, it was business as usual even though terrorist operations had escalated in the border areas. Police were seldom seen and still do not carry sidearms which indicated to us that the African populace was not as "oppressed" as many of the western liberals would like us to believe.

We bunked in at the luxurious Monomatapa Hotel, which has been dubbed "The Claymore" by the Rhodesian "troopies" due to its semi-circular construction. A few phone calls and a couple of hours later, we were quaffing

Lion Lagers with three members of the Rhodesian Light Infantry. For obvious reasons, all foreigners serving with the Rhodesian security forces have been given a nom de guerre.

Bob Nicholson, 29, from Fortune, California, spent eight years in the U.S. Army, including four years in Nam. Airborne/Ranger qualified, Nicholson left the Army in 1975 because of the drug problem and lax discipline. Bored with civilian life, he simply packed his bags, flew to Rhodesia and enlisted in June, 1975.

Chris Johnson, 26, from Houston, Texas, served two tours with a Marine Recon Bn. followed by a five year tour with the French Foreign Legion's Second Parachute Regiment. After his Legion discharge, he returned to Houston, where a Houston PD officer told him of the opportunities in Rhodesia. Within days, he was on his way.

The third member of the trio was Andy McLean, 26, from Scotland, who served nine years with the British Parachute Regiment. He opted for Rhodesia after receiving glowing reports from several of his buddies who had already made the move.

"I simply couldn't handle civilian life," McLean recounted, as he sipped on his Lion Lager. "I'm satisfied. There's action and a lot of bloody good people in our unit."

McLean stated his basic training unit consisted of 28 foreigners and five Rhodesians. The RLI, which consists of three assault companies, one training company and one support company, has thirty to forty percent foreigners, most of whom come from the U.S. and commonwealth countries.

We spent the next five days hunting and talking to local farmers and troops.

One of the farmers was Art Cumming, a strapping, cheery man whose farm was located about 50 kilometers from our safari camp. We were with Cumming and his wife Sandy the week before he was murdered by terrorists in Rhodesia's northwest operational area, code named "Operation Ranger."

What is tragic about the attack is that while it was made in the name of terrorism, few families in Rhodesia enjoyed such excellent relations with the blacks who lived on their farm. Consequently the Cumming brothers declined a government offer to erect a fence around their farm house, in spite of the fact that every other farm in the region had been fenced.

Arthur Cumming phrased it this way on the last morning that we were with him:

"I've grown up among these people. So did my dad and his dad. They know us as we are, and we know and accept them in the same way. There is trust and understanding, so why would they try to kill me, or my wife or brother or mother?"

Ten days after we left, Cumming-known in his unit, the Rhodesian Light Infantry, as "Gentleman Jim" - had been shot down in the sitting room of the home he had built for his new wife less than a year ago.

What was surprising about the death of Arthur Cumming was that during the five days we hunted on his property, nothing out of ordinary occurred on the farm.

Once again there had been attacks on Cumming cattle by a pride of lions that had come across from the Wankie National Park and Arthur was eager to drive them back to the sanctuary. It was our job to kill one or two members of the pride which had accounted for the loss of at least a dozen head of cattle during the previous week.

Our routine was the same each day of the hunt. Each morning before dawn we would arrive at the Cumming estate atop a small hill overlooking the nearby railway line. There we would pick up the local tracker, a man named Tickey, who had been with the Cumming family for more than 30 years. We were unaware that Tickey was already playing a pivotal role in the tragedy which was to follow.

Movement about the farm was unrestricted. The only signs of a security presence were armed patrols along the

railway line checking each day for landmines which may have been placed on bridges and culverts during the night. Nothing was found while we were in the area, though the terrorists had blown a span of the Metesi River bridge a few weeks earlier.

In spite of tracking a series of kills, the lion hunt was unsuccessful and our party settled for a fair-sized sable and a near record kudu. Days later, the attack which rocked northwest Rhodesia had taken place: a woman was widowed, soon to give birth to a child who would never know its father.

Details of the actual attack have been sparse, a tight security blanket being thrown over the area by members of the security forces who engaged in follow-up operations directly after Arthur Cumming had been killed.

Apparently, Arthur and Sandy were alone on the farm that fateful night. Lawrence, his younger brother, had left earlier in the day for Bulawayo, where

their mother, one of the earliest pioneers in the northwest, had been spending a few days.

At about nine in the evening, according to Sandy Cumming, Arthur got up from his easy chair in the lounge to lock the outside doors. Moments later, she recalls with horror, three black men in the uniforms of the Rhodesian Army — complete with camouflage cloth caps — entered the room from the kitchen.

Sandy's first words of surprise were: "Arthur, what is the Army doing in the house?"

A moment later, Arthur shouted a warning, "Run Sandy. Run for your life, out of the house." A fusillade of shots rang out in the close confines of the house and Arthur Cumming staggered backwards into the lounge. He crumpled in a heap onto the concrete floor. That was the last that Sandy saw of the attack, for she had already slipped out through one of the side doors. Moments later, she heard another burst of AK-47 fire. Sandy

could hear bullets ricocheting off the concrete and she knew the terrorists had again shot her wounded husband.

It was clear from the start that the terrorists' band of three, who apparently had come across from Zambia, were aware that Sandy Cumming had escaped. They also knew that she was almost nine months pregnant and consequently, could not go very far.

Crouching in a low clump of bushes at the end of the garden, Sandy could hear one of the men, obviously the leader of the killer band, give an order. One of the terrors immediately began to search for her around the house while the other two set about raiding the farm store, about 30 meters from the homestead.

Sandy remained hidden for what she terms "about 10 or 15 minutes, I can't remember exactly how long." All the while, she was desperate to know the fate of Arthur, for no sound came from the house. Meanwhile, the one terrorist searched through the house for her.



SOF Editor/Publisher Brown chats with a member of the British South Africa Police Reserve near the Wetesi railway bridge. Terrorists blew the first span (note arrow) dumping a train load of copper into the river bed. Brown carries a .45 Mark IV Colt in a Roy Baker Pancake Holster.

Eventually, Sandy could restrain herself no longer. She waited until the searching terrorist had gone around the corner of the house and then quickly scrambled towards the building, slipping into the house once again by the same door that she had exited from. Like a phantom in the dark, she made her way to Arthur who lay in a pool of blood where he had fallen. He was not yet dead.

Trembling, but with cool calculation, Sandy Cumming moved slowly towards the Agri-alert system which had been installed in their home only a few weeks before. She knew that she would have instant contact with a distant police station, but she was also aware that if

she tripped the alarm switch, the noise would bring the terrorists running.

Sandy carefully moved the switch marked "Talk" over to the "On" position. Lifting the telephone receiver to her ear she whispered a few words. "Can anyone hear me?" she said softly.

The firing had already alerted an Army patrol near the railway station, but they were several kilometers away. They had, however, contacted base and reported the shooting and thus, the command and control center was on the alert.

Yes, they could hear her. What had happened, they asked.

In as few words as possible, Sandy recounted the story in a low voice.

"Arthur is dying," she said. "Please send help."

Once again, she slipped to where Arthur was lying. She returned to the Agri-alert to tell them that Arthur's condition was critical. Having spent much of her adult life as a nursing sister in Salisbury, Sandy Cumming knew a serious case when she saw one and she did not mince words.

Several more times, Sandy went to her dying husband and each time she returned to the agri-alert phone to report his condition. On one occasion, a terrorist banged at one of the doors as he passed and she froze. But he moved on.

Eventually the inevitable report came through. "Arthur is dead," she called over the intercom. By then the terrorists had gone, having set fire to the farm store while a military patrol was fast approaching the house.

Unbeknown to Sandy Cumming, the entire drama, as it unfolded, was being followed by the entire farming community of northwest Rhodesia; at least that portion was linked by agri-alert to Victoria Falls Police Station. Each one of the sets installed on the farms is in contact with the other, so that when one farmer speaks, every other link can follow the conversation. In this way, if the alarm is sounded on a farm, it goes off simultaneously on every other farm.

In the case of the Cumming attack, this was closely followed by all the farms simply because the agri-alert system, together weapons, are usually next to any farmer's bed once the security gates have been shut for the night.

For a radius of more than 100 kilometers, families were able to hear the drama as it unfolded, made all the more poignant since Gentleman Jim Cumming, as young as he was, was already a well-known figure within the community.

In the words of George Grasselli, our guide who lives about 50 kilometers from the Cumming farm. It was frustrating. "There we were, listening to this terrible story and there was absolutely nothing that we could do about it," he said.

Rhodesian security forces were quick to follow up the attack, but first, questions were asked among those Africans working and living on the farm. There were a few astonishing developments.

The first of these was that the tracker, Tickey, who had been with the family for three decades and had, in fact, helped during our hunt for lion, had led the terrorists to the Cumming home on the night of the attack. Apparently, he had been feeding and hiding the group for a week, in spite of the fact that Tickey had often looked after young Cumming when he was a child.

"He carried him on his back as a little boy and helped to kill him once he had become a man," was the phrase used by one of the security officers during the investigation. Tickey is, at present, in custody in Victoria Falls. For helping ter-



Unsuccessful in quest for rogue lions and terrorists, Brown settled for a sable (above) and near-record kudu (below). George Grasselli, below left, is owner of Central Africa Safaris, Wankie, Rhodesia.



rorists in a terminal attack, he could receive the death penalty.

The name of another of the farm hands was mentioned to us by Arthur Cumming, when he explained why he believed the homestead would never be attacked. This man was a "Boss Boy" on the estate, and was also a senior card carrying member of the ZAPU faction of the Rhodesian African National Council (ANC).

During various discussions with this man, Arthur had been told by him that the farm was safe. He was told that everyone knew that he paid his labor well and was kind and good to their families. There was no reason, the AFRICAN TOLD Arthur, why the insurgents should want to attack the Cumming home.

this was one of the reasons, Arthur Cumming intimated, why he had never had his home enclosed with cyclone fencing. At the most authoritative level, he had been assured that it would not be necessary.

This ANC member is today also being held in close custody by the Rhodesian police. His role in the murder has not yet been detailed.

When we heard of the Cumming murders, we all reflected on a strange situation that had occurred on the third day of our hunt.

About 0530 hours, we were traveling toward the Cumming farm in Grasselli's land mine proofed Land Rover. Roll bars had been installed along with steel plating in front of the fire wall under and behind the front seats. We were crossing the railway near the Metesi bridge, as dawn was sneaking over the African bush, when one of our party observed

three Africans 150 meters down the track.

"They are armed and in uniform," someone whispered. Grasselli halted the vehicle; we bailed out and began uncasing our Zeiss-scoped .375 H & H magnums.

We had been hoping to get a shot at some terrorists and it looked as if it was time.

Grasselli glassed the suspects as we moved into the prone position.

"I can't make out their weapons but they're wearing Rhodesian camies," he said. We shrugged our shoulders and reluctantly went back to looking for lions.

When we heard that Cumming had seen terrorists, we zeroed in with 20-20 hindsight and determined we should have hailed the suspects - especially since when we had first observed them, they were moving toward the railway and when they heard the Land Rover, they ran the other way.

In Rhodesia, generally, the war continues unabated, except that Mr. Smith's security forces appear to have achieved a major breakthrough.

On our trip to Salisbury by road last October, we passed numerous operational centers along the main southeast highway from Beit Bridge. A month later, when we returned once again by vehicle, the entire operational front had moved further towards the east and the Mozambique border, the back of the insurgent offensive having apparently been broken by cross-border raids into the neighboring Marxist state.

The extent and impact of these raids is not fully known. While some critics



Due to arms embargo, Rhodesians are developing own small arms. Above is prototype of a 9 mm SMG, called the R-76, which will be described in the next issue.



Sten gun stock has been replaced with pistol grip to facilitate use in Grasselli's Land Rover.



Brown and Donovan contemplated going over Victoria Falls in a barrel. Brown rejected the idea as he felt Donovan was more of a threat than the falls.



Al J. Venter and John Donovan examine Browning Hi-Power with target sight and shoulder stock. Venter holds Sten gun.



Al Venter tries out Sten SMG with pistol type grip.



World-wide embargo on Rhodesia has resulted in unique improvisation on part of Rhodesians. Above are Rhodesian-made "Leopards," a vehicle designed for operation in the bush. Personnel compartment provides protection from blast if one of wheels hits mine.



SOF Explosives and Demo Editor, John Donovan, holds .375 H&H Magnum; carries .41 Magnum S & W on belt. George Graselli, owner of Central Africa Safaris, has "land mine-proofed" his Land Rover with roll bars; steel plating.

maintain that they have come too late and are not on a large enough scale, unofficial but reliable Salisbury contacts have indicated that the three cross-border operations stymied the full force of the terrorist summer offensive.

Government sources in Salisbury speak of "several hundred terrorists killed." Other reliable sources indicate that the true figure is nearer 2,000 terrorists, killed in three separate operations.

The daring, imagination and effectiveness of these raids can be compared favorably with the Israeli raid on Entebbe and the U.S. raid on Son Tay.

According to one of our contacts, on August 8th, a Rhodesian force of 72 men — both blacks and whites — drove into a terrorist training camp in Frelimo vehicles, dressed in Frelimo uniforms, singing Frelimo songs and armed with AK-47's. Their operational plan had them driving onto the camp's parade ground as the terts and Frelimo troops were holding reville about 20 minutes before dawn. When in position, the Rhodesian force opened up, killing approximately 300 terrorists and 30 Frelimo.

Days after the first raid the Mozambique Government broke silence with a brief announcement that 618 had been killed. The broadcast alleged that the attack had been made on defenceless refugees at "Nyagomia village, 40 kms. inside Mozambique."

Subsequently a British newspaper, under the headline, RHODESIA IS ACCUSED, repeated the Mozambique Government's accusation that "hundreds of women and children" were killed in an attack on a "refugee camp" and quoted the Mozambique Government's publication of photographs of "massed graves of women and children refugees."

The British Government further stated that it preferred to believe the United Nations' account to that of the Rhodesian Government.

On August 29th, the Rhodesian Government released a fairly full and documented account of the raid, including a captured map of Nyadzonya camp. In addition, captured documents included



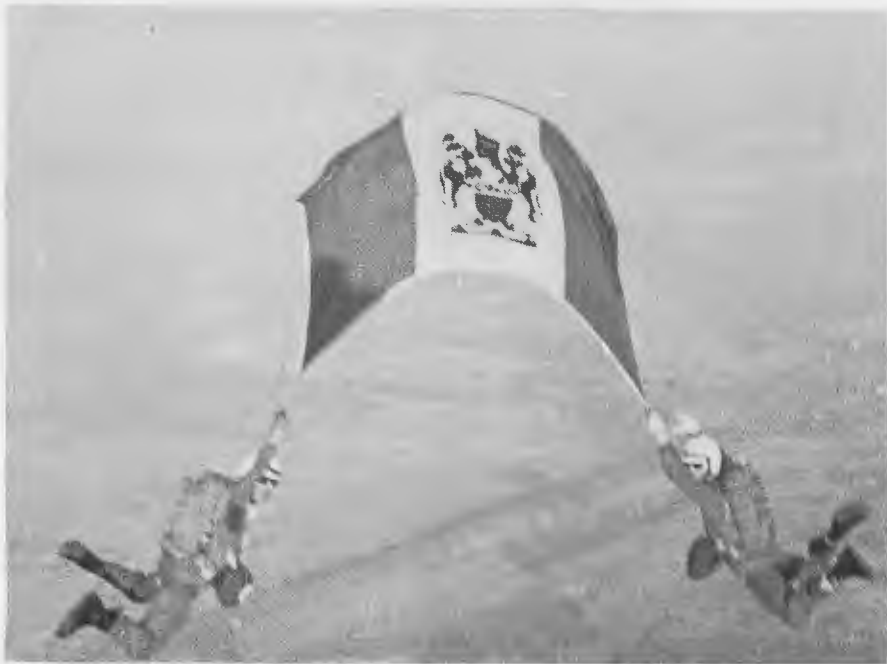
Members of the BSAP Reserve guarding the Metesi bridge, while away the hours over improvised chess game. Reservests serve three week tours three times a year.



Donovan examines a folding stack model of Russian 7.62mm RPKS light machine gun which is relatively rare in Africa.



Donovan with a squad of young Rhodesian "troopies" who have just returned from patrol near Victoria Fall, Rhodesia.



Members of the Rhodesian Airborne HALO section have just excited a DC-3 with Rhodesian flag. A U.S. Vietnam vet is presently the HALO advisor to the Rhodesians.

a "master roll" of more than 2000 names of camp inmates, listing their real names, their **chimurenga** ("war of revolution") names and details of their village of origin, district, educational standard, occupation and marital status.

Words on the map clearly indicate the military nature of the camp: words such as "security section," "security guards," "male barracks," "commander's residence" and places for "Red guards." Other documents showed there were three battalions based on the camp at the time of the raid. On August 5th — three days before the raid — the A Battalion had a register of 1128, of whom 1070 were on parade, some were sick and 36 were "missing." Each battalion was broken down into three detachments, and with each detachment were a commander, a political commissar, a medical officer, a deputy commander and a person responsible for logistics.

A further document included a list of SKS machine guns and rocket launchers — curious equipment for a refugee camp.



Above are samples of weapons captured by Rhodesian Army in their daring assault into Mozambique. From left to right: Russian 7.62mm Goryunov Heavy Machine Gun; two Russian 7mm DShK M 1938/46 Heavy Machine Guns a-

dapted for anti-aircraft role; Chinese 75mm type 56 Recoilless Rifle; and Russian 82mm BIO (or RG82) Recoilless Rifle. Rhodesian forces captured/destroyed nearly 100 tons of terrorist arms. Set back terr offensive by months.

As an editorial in the **Rhodesian Sunday Mail** (Aug. 29) stated:

"No one who sees the documentary evidence can question that the Nyadzonya camp . . . was in fact a terrorist camp. To suggest, as has been done outside our borders, that it was a refugee camp has been proved absolute nonsense by the documents. They are packed with references to the military structure of the camp, its battalion formations, their chain of command (including political commissars), lists of revolutionary names, records of weapons and instructions on them, lecture notes with the thoughts of communist chairman Mao te-tung, records of punishments inflicted on dissident revolutionaries (including women), and personal testaments of recruits.

"It is all there for the world to see — and to nail the refugee camp lie. Refugees do not have military battalions, terrorist indoctrination, communist commissars and weapons of war.

"Obviously efforts were made in Mozambique to cover up the true nature and purpose of Nyadzonya — sufficient to fool a representative of the United Nations, not that that body would require much convincing of anything anti-Rhodesian.

"There have been suggestions that after the Rhodesian raid Frelimo took the opportunity to do some eliminating of their own. Likely or not, it is interesting to note that the camp Rhodesia attacked was at Nyadzonya, 50 km. inside Mozambique, while the United Nations' representative admitted the settlement he saw was called Margonha and was near the Rhodesian border."

During one raid, a massive arms dump was destroyed in the Tete region of Mozambique involving almost 100 tons of Soviet and Chinese ordnance. The explosion lit up the sky for 50 kilometers and there were a number of "foreign advisers" including Eastern Europeans killed in the blast.

One of the results of cross-border raids is that Rhodesian army morale is at a zenith. This has also been reflected on the activities of those terrorists (estimated to number about 2,000, of whom about a fifth are in the northeast), still in the beleaguered country.

Terrorists captured by Rhodesian security forces in late November have indicated that they are well aware of Rhodesian raids into Mozambique and the effect they are having on supplies and logistics. There are also serious doubts in insurgent circles about the security of their home bases — an essential aspect of insurgency or guerrilla warfare.

For this, and other reasons, bands of terrorists in Rhodesia are running for the border and trying to get back to Mozambique. It is these groups that have been decimated in the past month,

simply because they no longer affect caution and become easy targets while on the move.

Further problems face them once they enter Mozambique, since strict instructions have been given by Frelimo authorities not to allow terrorists active in Rhodesia to return to bases behind the lines. In some cases, returnees have been shot out-of-hand by Frelimo forces for disobeying these orders.

In a desperate bid to prop up the offensive, the Mozambique command — directed by regular army officers from Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique and Botswana, together with a sprinkling of Cubans, Russians, Chinese, East Germans and North Vietnamese — are sending into Rhodesia half-trained combatants.

Meanwhile, the Rhodesian domestic front is slowly recovering from the shock

of the earlier offensive, and life is swinging back to normal. South African tourists, long reticent to travel to Rhodesia, are now accepting that Rhodesia is still, in fact, super, and are traveling to the country once more in increasing numbers. Many of them enjoy the thrill of an occasional convoy.

Conditions are likely to improve still more, once the summer offensive winds down.

While most observers concede that the war is likely to go on indefinitely, they also maintain that the average Rhodesian is learning to live with adversity and coping astonishingly well in the face of tremendous odds.



Datsun pickup used as "gun jeep" to accompany convoys carries MAG light machine gun manned by members of BSAP Reserve.



Above are Rhodesian snipers who fought with South African troops in Europe during WWI. Now, their sons and grandsons fight in their own homeland against tyranny.

160 HOURS BENEATH THE MISSISSIPPI

Illinois Divers Challenge "The Big Muddy"

by John Donovan

Captain John L. Donovan, President of Donovan's Dynamiting, has been appointed Contributing Editor, Explosives and Demolitions for SOF. Donovan is a Lt. in the Special Tactical Unit and Cpt. of the Underwater Search and Recovery Team for the McLean County Sheriff Department; bomb disposal officer for Bloomington and Normal, Illinois; former SWAT Team Commander for Sangamon County, Illinois; karate and hand-to-hand combat instructor; and SCUBA instructor with 3300 hours underwater. Donovan, a Master Parachutist with 240 jumps, is also the Engineer Staff Officer for the U.S. Army Reserve 12th Special Forces Group. Donovan can be contacted c/o Donovan's Dynamiting, Box 325, Danvers, IL 61732.

DONOVAN DYNAMITING: Specialized Blasting and Underwater Operations. The name of my firm speaks for itself. My company, the type of contracts we fulfill, and our personnel radiate adventure. But the thought of adventure and the real experience are as opposite as night and day. The work is physically hard, emotionally demanding and requires the skills and dedication of true "professionals." The "glory" associated with our work is found only in the minds of others.

Though we handle a wide variety of demolition jobs, including drooping bridges, smoke stacks and large buildings, they are all different and dangerous — and financially rewarding.

One of the more interesting jobs we recently completed consisted of inspecting and repairing high pressure, exposed pipeline in the Mississippi River channel that carries gas from the state of Texas. Our mission was to inspect these pipe lines where they cross the river for leaks and exposure as well as trees that sometimes become entangled above the exposed pipe.

To find the exposed pipe a diver swims

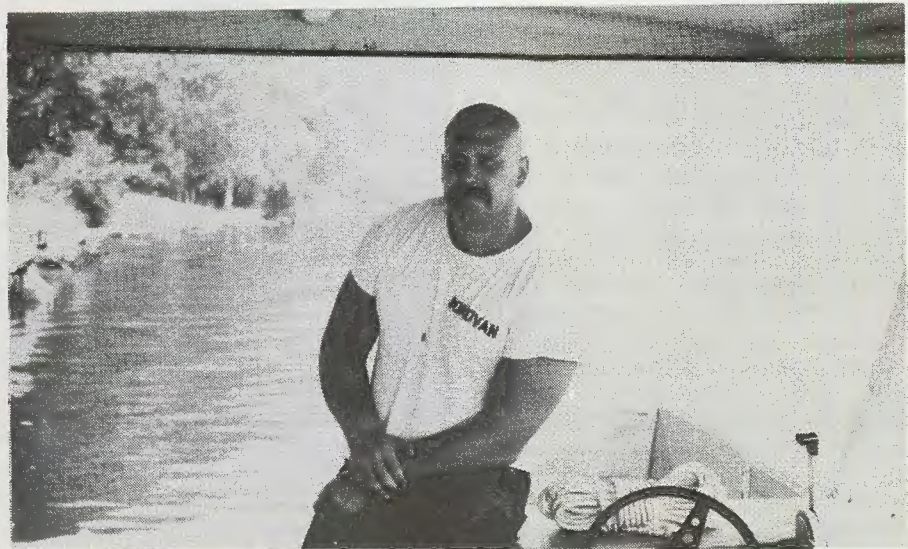
to the bottom of the river grasping a rope with a 40 lb. weight attached to it. He then is literally dragged downstream by the current along the bottom of the river until he runs into an obstacle. The diver then signals the support personnel in the boat. Occasionally the diver will become entangled in the log jams for up to 15 minutes — no picnic 45 feet below the surface with zero visibility.

After exposed portions of pipe are located and marked by buoys, the real work begins. The exposed pipe must be cemented over so the silt from the river will cover the pipe. This is done by dropping two to three tons of dry cement in fifty pound bags as close to the pipe as possible. The diver then returns and places the bags pyramid style over the pipe.

If log jams are located, a tug and barge are brought to the site. The barge is equipped with a portable or mounted winch capable of pulling the trees or logs to the surface. A diver then attaches cables to the logs or trees which are winched to the surface. This is a bit

hairy as the diver must stay in the immediate vicinity while the logs are removed to insure the pipe is not damaged. The diver has zero visibility and must be wary of the log jam shifting and trapping him.

What kind of man does it take to work eight to 12 hours a day under these conditions? Adventurous certainly but also hard working, intelligent individuals. For instance, Larry Page, our explosives engineer, chief diver and general mechanic has a masters degree in microbial biochemistry and has accepted a position at the University of Chicago, where he will conduct research on brain tumors. Two other divers, Kas Gaigalas and Jeff Barclay, also have degrees in biology. Money is a motivating factor for many adventurers and the Donovan divers are no exception.



SOF Explosives and Demolition Editor John Donovan, President of Donovan's Dynamiting, has 12 years experience in the demo business; 3300 hours underwater.



ABOVE: Donovan's divers work in teams to clear snags, hazardous to boat and barge traffic in Mississippi Channel. Work at 45' depth and zero visibility is common. **LOWER L:** Weasel on barge winches out jammed logs after cables are attached by divers. **LOWER R:** Work completed, a diver rests in power launch before calling it a day.





PARAMEDICS IN GUATEMALA

In Depth Report on PMRS' First Operation

By JOHN PETERS, M.D.

As heretofore reported, Parachute Medical Rescue Service (PMRS) International, participated in the massive international effort to relieve the victims of the earthquake disaster in February, 1976, in Guatemala, by sending a total of 12 Volunteers, under the leadership of SOF Contributing Editor, Para-Medic Operations, Dr. John Peters.

Other PMRS info: The administrative office of PMRS is now under supervision of Secretary-Treasurer Alexander McColl (SOF Military Editor) at: 1122 Edgemoor Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008. PMRS is a strictly a VOLUNTEER organization; that is, it has no salaried positions and is not in a position to offer employment to anyone at the present time. At a future date, PMRS will probably require a thoroughly competent and experienced person to serve as full-time Jumpmaster, Rigger, Parachute Instructor, and Training-Site Manager for the training site. This will be a

salaried position, but considerable organizational work (and fund-raising) will have to be accomplished before PMRS can start looking at candidates for this position.

The bright sunlight glinted off the scalpel in my right hand, as I glanced up in curiosity. Out of the corner of my eye, I'd seen Miller reach inside the loose fitting green tunic that he wore and pull the Walther PPK automatic pistol from the shoulder holster beneath his left arm. Without a word, he jacked a live round into the chamber, flipped on the safety, and shoved the weapon into his waistband. Then, quietly, with a thin smile on his bearded face, he said, "They're talking about hanging us."

Suddenly, for the four of us that day, high in the rugged mountains of Central Guatemala, in the village of Tres Cruces, it felt chilly in the heat of the midday sun. We were in the process of removing part of the gangrenous foot of a beautiful

22-year-old Indian girl whose husband and children had all been killed when their adobe home had come crashing down upon them while they slept two weeks before.

"You gotta' be kidding," said Thompson, who was holding the woman's foot. "Why would they want to do that?"

"We promised them medicine yesterday, and if the chopper doesn't come back with it today, they're talking about hanging us tomorrow," replied Miller.

"O.K.," Darley smiled, "If they're not going to hang us till tomorrow, let's get on with this operation. The anesthetic's going to wear off soon."

"Yeah," I grunted. "Ed, give us a little more traction on the foot. Gary, better tighten that tourniquet a little and inject about 20 cc's more Lidocaine," I added. The girl lying on the improvised operating table moaned as the scalpel sliced down into her foot. "Bob, you and Rick stay close by — and you better move all our gear over here, in case we need to get to it in a hurry. . . ."

It had all begun just two weeks before. . . .

Gary Darley & I had just finished delivering a baby in a small, dimly lit trailer house, high in the Colorado mountains when we heard of the earthquake in Guatemala on the early morning radio news. We listened with more than a little interest because we had been part of a rescue team that parachuted into Honduras after Hurricane Fifi just sixteen months before. I had also been with a para-rescue team in Peru in 1970 after their massive earthquake and now mentally cringed at the horror and suffering that the Guatemalans must be experiencing. Gary and I wondered if we would be called to Guatemala.

We didn't have long to wait. We were requested to come to Guatemala by the Guatemalan Government. But all rescue teams must now obtain a clearance from the U.S. State Department, and that clearance was more than a week in coming. Each day we waited, the death toll mounted: First 600; then 2,000; then 5,000; then 12,000; then 17,000. Finally, late on February 11, we were cleared. Within hours, the various members of the teams were on their way, aboard flights provided by Braniff, National and Eastern Airlines, headed toward the staging area, which would be Miami: Dr. Art Roberts, parachuting oral surgeon from Rushville, Indiana; John Montana, police officer from Chicago; George Speakman, who had served as jumpmaster of both the Peruvian and Honduran rescue teams, from Rome City, Indiana; Tom Reisinger, ex-Special Forces medic, who was a part of the Peruvian and Honduran efforts, from Cedar Falls, Iowa; Dan Baldwin, recently retired U.S. Army Colonel, from Denver, Colorado; Shelagh Considine, Public Relations Executive, who would be the first woman member of the team, from San Francisco; Ed Thompson, ex-Airborne Trooper and Communications Expert and Gary Darley, ex-Navy independent duty corpsman, both of whom had parachuted into Honduras, along with myself, all from Norwood, Colorado.

Several members already lived in the Miami area. They were Ed Kolby, ex-Special Forces team member, who also participated in Honduras; Bob Miller, ex-Marine, who lived a good deal of his life in Cuba, and who would act as chief interpreter for the team, and Nick Ladas ex-Special Forces medic. Ralph Edens would act as team coordinator in the Miami area, and he, along with Alex McColl of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Robert Brown from Boulder, Colorado, would coordinate the entire effort. Everyone, with the exception of Shelagh Considine, who would fly directly to Guatemala City, arrived in Miami on the 12th of February.

The next day, — after having received inoculations for eight diseases and hav-

ing picked up donated radios, medical supplies and surgical equipment, the team boarded Pan Am Flight 503 for Guatemala City. We cleared and were met by Col. Federico Fuentes, the G-5 at the Guatemalan Air Force HQ, who had military transport waiting to take us to the Military Air Base where we were to be quartered.

As we off-loaded our gear at the air base, we watched in the gathering orange-tinted darkness as a huge twin-rotor Chinook Helicopter descended, carrying the burned off remains of a U.S. Huey chopper that had crashed that day. Six helicopters would be lost in this rescue effort: five U.S., one Guatemalan. Col. Fuentes advised us that our team leaders should meet at the Guatemalan Operations Center at 0700 the next morning. His parting remark was, "Get a good night's sleep, my friends, you're going to need it."

The next morning, at 0645, Speakman, Baldwin, Miller and I were on our way downfield with Col. Fuentes, headed for the Operations Center. The rest of our team would unpack and check our gear. As we walked, we noted an almost continuous stream of large semi-trucks moving onto the air base. Fuentes informed us that all supplies coming into the country were brought here, and were being distributed from here. During the entire time we were in Guatemala, we saw no evidence of black marketeering and it was by far the best coordinated rescue effort any of us had participated in.

At operations, we were introduced to Col. Elias Ramirez, Commander of overall operations; to Col. Rossito, Chief of Helicopter Operations, and to Col. Gonzales, who was in charge of all medical operations. We were in a room filled with radio gear. The walls were covered by multi-colored maps, upon which were cellotex overlays, covered with numbers, symbols, arrows and lines indicating areas already covered, damage estimates, numbers killed and wounded, etc. A large blackboard at one end of the room listed the day's scheduled helicopter flights. We noted that our team was scheduled on the first flight out.

Jump from a helicopter? Looked interesting.

Ramirez told us that he would be directly responsible for all insertions, ground activities, and extractions of the team in Guatemala, and we would report directly to him. He then said he wished he had had our parachute capability at his disposal a week earlier, but that now, with the arrival of the U.S. helicopters to supplement those of the Guatemalan Army, and since all points within the disaster area were now known to be within range of the choppers, that there was no longer a need for a para-rescue team. Our hearts sank. Had we all come to Guatemala, left homes and jobs, only to be told we weren't needed anymore? Our fears were soon quieted when he added that there was need for the team, but that we would be inserted by helicopter rather than by parachute.



First official PMRS team to participate in disaster operations flew to Guatemala prepared to jump.



Nich Ladas points out next objective. Terrain was rugged; inaccessible by road.

We would cover areas in the mountains to the north and west of Guatemala city, and Venezuelan teams similar to ours would cover areas to the north and east. We would be split into two teams (Alpha and Bravo), be inserted by chopper, and walk from village to village, assessing damage and initiating necessary medical aid. We would have daily overflights regarding resupply, medical evacuations, etc., and would then be extracted by helicopter at pre-arranged pickup points three to four days later, return to Guatemala City for debriefing, be briefed, and the process repeated. He informed us that we would be operating, for the most part, at elevations from 6,000 to 8,000 feet in rugged mountains, on narrow trails, with the ever-present danger of the daily aftershocks causing landslides, obliterating what trails were left, and causing collapse of many already weakened buildings. He turned from the map to the blackboard, looked at his watch, and told us that Team Alpha would be picked up in front of the Operations Center in exactly 40 minutes.

At 0800, Team Alpha, consisting of Ladas, Thompson, Darley, Miller and myself were back at the Operations Center. We would be inserted at a village called Los Limones, walk east to Granados and then proceed south to Estancia de Garcia, checking all villages and side canyons along the way, and be picked up at Estancia de Garcia in three days. We were assigned an armed Guatemalan Army Lieutenant escort, Augusto Leche Gramaso, who answered to the name of Rick and who soon became a fast friend.

As we left Operations, we heard our helicopter, U.S. Huey #2304, descending. We hurried out, climbed aboard, and headed north over the severe damage of Guatemala City, then over other cities

and towns which were now just heaps of rubble, higher and higher into the mountains. Speakman was leaning over the right seat of the helicopter, going over coordinates on a map held by the copilot.

The farther north we flew, the higher and more rugged were the mountains while the villages became more scattered and remote. As we arrived in the area where Los Limones was marked on the map, we could find no village, only scattered adobe huts. After thirty minutes of covering the entire area, the pilot gave up, selected a clearing below and descended to insert us. Now we found out why six helicopters were lost in Guatemala.



Team members operated at elevations of 6,000 to 8,000 feet; many trails were obliterated by landslides.

The wind was strong and gusty as we neared the ground. The pilot made several unsuccessful attempts at landing, and then, having his crew chief throw out a couple of M18 smoke grenades we provided to lead him in, he skillfully maneuvered his severely buffeted chopper down into the clearing and onto the ground. We rapidly dismounted and the chopper immediately headed back to Guatemala City.

From nowhere, 50 to 60 Indian villagers suddenly appeared in the clearing around us. Miller and Leche informed them why we were here and asked the way to Los Limones. The village, we found, was actually an area, a collection of huts on the surrounding hillsides, and naturally, we being in a valley, the village center was on a mountain top above us.

After a hot, dusty two-hour climb that seemed at times almost straight up, we arrived at the top of the mountain, found only minor injuries and about fifteen percent damage. The people, however, did need food and blankets. After a short time there, we made our way back down the mountain, headed now for Granados. On our way down, we noted a U.S. Chinook carrying a Skyhook load beneath it, circling aimlessly about, apparently also looking for a village it couldn't find. We established radio contact with the chopper and informed them that this area needed food and blankets. They radioed back to set up a LZ, which we did, while they circled overhead. They then descended and offloaded several hundred blankets and pounds of grain. The Indians looked on with awe. Minutes before, they had asked us for food and blankets, and lo and behold, here was a big bird, descending, filled with food and blankets for them. It wasn't planned, but it was beautiful.

We then moved out on a narrow foot-path clinging to the steep mountainside toward Granados. Making much better time than anticipated, we arrived in Granados by late afternoon. There too, we found light damage and minor injuries.

After spending the night in Granados, we were up at dawn the next morning, heading toward Estancia de Garcia, on a narrow, dusty single lane dirt road, checking out villages along the way. We hitched a ride part of the way on a big, open truck filled to the top with cases of empty pop bottles. Within minutes, we were going downhill, on this steep, narrow mountain road, sitting on empty bottles of Maya-Cola (or whatever they call it), high atop a wildly careening truck, going at least 50 miles per hour. This obviously insane Guatemalan driver didn't know the meaning of the word fear, as he didn't slow down on the sharp curves which routinely overlook 1,000 foot plus drops into the canyon below. He just merrily honked his horn, as he approached blind curves, in order to warn anyone coming up the one-lane road that doom approached. At the end of that thankfully short, but harrowing ride, there were several white men in Guatemala who were very, very white.

We arrived at Estancia de Garcias at midday — a day and a half ahead of schedule. Within an hour, we heard a helicopter in the distance. Darley and Thompson headed for a high point, to attempt to establish radio contact with the chopper. This they soon did, and found Speakman aboard, with a team to be inserted at Salton, a good-sized town just seven kilometers west of us. He would insert the team while we were setting up an LZ. We found a semi-level abandoned cornfield nearby set up an LZ, pulled the pin on a yellow M-18 grenade as we heard the chopper approach. Speakman jumped out and ran toward us, as the Huey settled to the ground in a cloud of brown dust kicked up by its rotorwash. Plans now called for three teams, he hurriedly explained: Team B consisting of Roberts, Montana, Considine and a Guatemalan escort had been inserted north of us at a town called El Chol and would proceed farther north on foot. Team C consisting of Kolby, Reisinger, Ladas and their Guatemalan escort would proceed west and south from Salton. Team A would wait here while I went back to Guatemala City to be debriefed, and rebriefed by Col. Ramirez about Team A's new area.

Speakman, Ladas and I moved back through the swirling dust, reboarded the chopper, which took off, heading west back towards Salton to drop off Ladas, and there in a little clearing outside Salton, we almost bought the farm. As we neared the ground again in strong, buffeting winds, the Huey kicked up a big duster that completely enveloped us, reducing visibility to zero, momentarily.

At the same time, a big gust of wind hit us from the starboard side, blowing us sideways toward the trees ringing the small clearing. The pilot added full power, increased pitch, and we emerged from the duster, canted at a 45 degree angle, narrowly missing the trees. The pilot who reminded us of the truck driver earlier that day, looked back, flashed us a big smile, and headed back into the clearing for another shot at a landing, again in a big duster, but this time without incident. Speakman and I were all the while muttering something about rather being back in a parachute than the "greater safety" of these helicopters.

At the Operations Center, I told Ramirez of what little we had found between Los Limones and Estancia de Garcia. Team A, he now told us, would be picked up in the morning and transported farther north and west to an area even higher in the mountains, to a village called Tres Cruces. No one had been there; nothing was known of the extent of damage or injuries. Also, the Indians in the area were quite primitive, and it was unknown how they would accept our presence.

At 0810 hours the next morning, we were again on our way north, and as we neared Estancia de Garcia, we heard Ladas on the radio, at Salton, requesting a medivac. He had a badly injured woman, who was in kidney failure. Speakman told him that they would pick her up on the way back, after the chopper had inserted Team A at Tres Cruces, but first we had to find Team A — they weren't at Estancia de Garcia. It seems they had been picked up by another Guatemalan chopper fifteen minutes before and were being taken, why, we never found out, to join a Venezuelan team far to the east. We very luckily had heard some chatter on the radio a few minutes before and established contact with the other Huey.

We, after much "persuasive" radio talk, had them land, and we then retrieved our people, much to the dismay of

the other chopper pilot, who obviously had orders to take someone to join the Venezuelans. But who, or where to find them, he apparently didn't know. We took off while he was still scratching his head, muttering to himself, pouring over his maps.

We headed northwest, higher into the rugged Guatemalan mountains. Again, the pilot had difficulty finding our village, landing us and picking us up three separate times, before he finally set the chopper down on a 8600 foot high mountain top, with a big smile, stating; "Maybe you can find it from the ground, I can't find it from the air."

We thanked him politely, told Speakman we expected him back on the morrow, and then jumped out into the boiling dust kicked up by the rapidly rotating rotor. As before, Indians appeared from nowhere.

Within minutes after they found out why we were there, they had brought us a boy with a skull fracture, another child with an extensive chest injury, a man with advanced TB, and then many more injuries. We told them that we would set up a clinic at Tres Cruces, and to bring us all the sick and injured. They told us Tres Cruces was just one kilometer over the next hill.

Three hours, four hills, and many hot and uphill kilometers later, we arrived at Tres Cruces, again on another mountain top, and again, not an organized village but a collection of native homes that covered tree mountains, connected by narrow ridges. Since there were hundreds of sick and injured in the area, we soon ran out of medical supplies. We operated on those we could, setting closed fractures and dislocations, debriding compound fractures and other wounds, treating many respiratory and gastrointestinal infections. It got very cold at night at the 8,000-9,000 foot levels in these mountains and most of the people were sleeping outside in the bitter cold, rather than to sleep inside, fearing that they'd suffer the same fate that



Guatemalan operation was third paramedic venture for SOF staff member Dr. John Peters. Previously, he jumped into Peru and Honduras.



Ed Kolby, Nich Ladas and Tom Reisinger (left to right) select LZ for supply chopper.

many of their fellow villagers had two weeks before. They had good reason to be concerned, for each night, both they and we felt the aftershocks, and more buildings did collapse.

As I said before, we soon ran out of medical supplies. We told the hundreds of villagers who had come pouring into Tres Cruces from all the surrounding villages within twenty miles, that we no longer had medicine to treat them with, but we promised them that more medicine would be lifted in tomorrow.

This promise proved to be Team A's worst mistake, because the chopper failed to show the next day, and, consequently, we couldn't (or didn't, as the primitive Indian looked at it) keep our promise. It seems that in this area, a man's word is his bond, and he's expected to do what he says he'll do. The Gringos hadn't done what they had promised to do.

We awakened that next day at dawn, after a miserable, cold, sleepless night, and were dismayed at the sight of the hundreds of sick and injured people, sitting, standing or lying, suffering silently, waiting for us to treat them with the miracle medicine that they had heard we possessed: medicine that took pain away within minutes; that, within hours, could cure illnesses that they had learned to suffer through for days or weeks with the outcome frequently death. They pleaded for the medicine we had optimistically promised them the day before. We did what we could, treating those injuries we could without any anesthetics. All day, we searched the sky with both eyes and ears, vainly looking and listening for a helicopter that would not come that day. We kept one of our two radios on all day, hoping to hear something from someone within range, but the radio was silent all that day. And, as the day progressed, the sick and wounded became restless. The well among them, who had

carried these sick and injured on their backs, from miles around through the rugged mountains, to Tres Cruces, became sullen.

About mid-afternoon, a man walked into the village carrying a beautiful young woman on his back, in a chair strapped to his forehead and waist. He had walked more than 25 kilometers with her to bring her to us — the miracle workers. She was his sister-in-law. His brother and all their children had been killed, and the law of his tribe now demanded that he care for his brother's wife for the rest of her life. She was sweating profusely, and obviously was in much pain, but she suffered in absolute silence. She had an ugly wound of her left foot, a horrible compound fracture that had become infected, and now she had the dreaded gangrene already extending above her ankle. She would likely die, no matter what we did for her, even if we could get her to a hospital immediately, which we couldn't. She needed to be started on antibiotics immediately, and have her leg amputated.

We had a few antibiotic capsules remaining in the team's first aid kit, in case any of us got sick. We started her on these immediately. Miller explained patiently, over and over again, both to her and to her brother, that it was necessary to amputate her leg to save her life. With great difficulty, because of her pain and fever, this beautiful young woman, dying in the prime of her life, in halting Spanish, mixed with ancient Mayan dialect of her ancestors — thanked us for trying to help her, but she would not let us take away her leg. She told us that now that her husband and children had all died, she had no further reason to live. She would let us clean her wound, and would take the medicine offered her, but she knew she was dying, and she wanted only to be taken back home to be with those she had loved so much in life. We

debrided her grievous wound, removed a large part of the foul-smelling mass that had once been her foot, and watched sadly as her brother-in-law gently strapped her to the chair, and then the chair to himself, and set off back down the mountain. Each step of the way we knew would be agony for the young woman on the chair, and each of us wondered if we would, when each of our inevitable times of death approached, be able to face the final experience as bravely and with as much dignity as this young woman in the mountains of Central America had.

And, the threat of death was on our minds too, for it was while operating on this young woman's foot that Miller had quietly announced that the restless villagers were talking of hanging us. We continued to treat those we could with what little we had to work with, but now the team stayed closer together, weapons clearly visible, hoping that the sight of them would act as some sort of deterrent, as apparently none of the men in the village possessed a firearm, only their wicked-looking, ever-present machetes. We were hopelessly outnumbered, and both the five of us and they knew it. The day passed and night came, and we huddled together — cold and depressed, talking late into the night of both what we would do if our chopper came or didn't come.

We were up at first light, having spent another cold and sleepless night. We watched from our vantage point above the few huts which designated the geopolitical center of the village of Tres Cruces — watched as the villagers below began to stir and move about — the women of the village beginning to grind the corn they would make into tortillas for that day; the men moving about, sharpening machetes, standing about in small groups, talking, waiting for their women to prepare their breakfasts.

We watched as one of the men separated himself from one of the groups and headed up the hill toward us. We gazed toward the southeast, toward Guatemala City, and could still see the glow of the city lights on the horizon, 80 miles away, in the soft, pink, predawn light. Guatemala City — where the helicopters were — so temptingly near, and yet, realistically so very far away. Roosters crowed below, dogs barked, and the Indian slowly approached. He politely invited us to watch the butchering of a cow, apparently not too common and an event in the village.

We wondered if this was some perverse sort of audio-visual object lesson for Gringos who didn't keep promises. But we were afraid to refuse his invitation, since they might take it as an insult, adding fuel to an already smoldering fire.

The cow's feet were bound together, then her head tied and twisted back along her backbone. The local executioner, a

big man who traveled from village to village throughout the area, killing whatever needed killing, we were told, slowly inserted a short, broad machete into the terrified animal's heart. Two women caught the blood in two large basins as the blood gushed from the wound in the dying animal's chest. We now noted that there were male villagers all around us, in the brush and trees of the hillside. It looked like "circle-the-wagons" time.

Each man's hand nervously moved to the automatics we all carried. And, then it happened — the most beautiful sound in the world — the sound of a helicopter in the distance. Thompson was immediately on the radio calling, "Chopper, chopper — this is Turkey One" (an aptly picked call sign), "do you read?", waiting a few moments, then repeating the call in both English and Spanish. The sound of the chopper was fading, and we got sick; then we heard a crackle over the receiver, and then Speakman's unmistakable voice, "Turkey One, Turkey One, this is Chopper 712, where in hell are you guys?"

Meanwhile, Darley had headed for the ridge above with the other radio, where we had cleared an LZ two days before. We now heard him cutting in, "Chopper 712, this is Turkey One. I have you in sight. Make a 120 degree turn to starboard and climb to 8,000 feet. You are below us and going away."

Speakman again, "I hear you loud and clear, Turkey One. Now making a 120 degree right turn and climbing."

Beautiful music! By this time, all of Team A and hundreds of Indians had clamored up the hill and had now reached the LZ. Lt. Leche was clearing the LZ of Indians and was putting out a bright survival orange LZ marker panel. Darley was higher on the ridge above us, talking the chopper in.

Miller pulled the pin and tossed an M-18 into the middle of the LZ. Twenty seconds later, beautiful magenta-colored smoke billowed out and the Guatemalan Huey made a slow, graceful half circle over the LZ, landing into the gentle five-knot wind blowing out of the southeast. Speakman was out and running toward us. As he got near, he yelled above the engine and rotor noise, "Where's your gear? We have orders to move you to a new area."

"We're not leaving," I said.

"What do you mean, not leaving? Why?" he roared.

I replied, "There are a lot of sick and injured here. We promised them medicine and help, and we aren't leaving until they get it. We also have several people to medivac."

The team had decided the night before to stay on if just such an eventuality occurred. Although afraid, we all felt that we had come to do a job and weren't going to leave until it was done. We had given our word to these people and we

were going to stick by it, albeit a little late. I continued, "Do you have any medical supplies aboard?"

"Very little," he replied, "Also a little food and a few blankets."

"We'll take anything you have," I said. "Miller's getting the medivacs up here — a boy with a skull fracture, a man with an infected compound fracture of his upper leg, and a guy with TB," I yelled.

"Jesus Christ," roared Speakman, "not only won't you come back, but you'll probably give me TB on top of it all!"

"George," I chided him with a smile, "you've probably lived too long already. Don't worry about it."

Speakman obviously saw we meant to stay, he said, "Get your medivacs aboard, take what supplies we have. I'll try to get back to you later today with a full load of medical supplies. What do you need? But remember, I can't promise anything. They've lost three more choppers since you've been gone. I had a hell of a time getting this one. I don't know when I'll get another one."

I replied, "You'll get one, George. We'll send Thompson back with you. He knows what we need. See you later, old friend."

"Christ Almighty! You guys are crazy. We may not get back for a week. I don't know — I'll try — but don't blame me if they make you walk out," he said, as he stomped back to the pilot's side of the chopper.

Miller, Thompson, Darley and I now supervised the loading of the three medivacs as Speakman held a somewhat heated discussion with the pilot who had orders to extract us. The pilot finally threw up his hands in despair as he saw the remainder of Team A trudging back toward the village away from his chopper. We turned to watch as the chopper revved up, and lifted off heading south-east, back to Guatemala City.

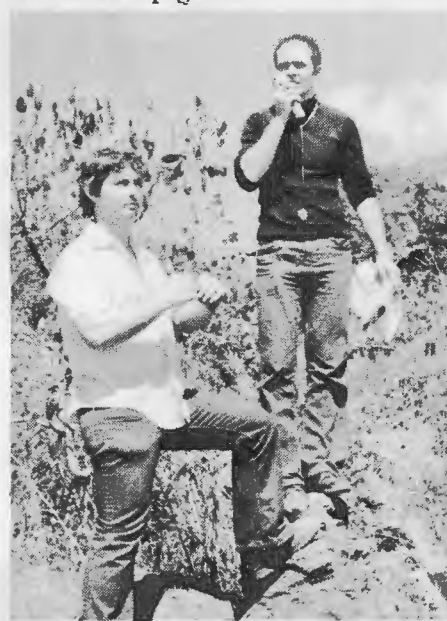
Miller, Darley, Leche and I wondered if we had made the right decision. We

headed back to the village, quickly used up the supplies we had acquired from Speakman, and continued treating as many of the injured as we could. At lunch, we talked about what had happened. We had mixed emotions about the decision to stay. But at 2 p.m., we knew we had made the right one. Even before we heard the chopper, we heard Speakman, "Turkey One, Turkey One, this is Guatemala Chopper 714, do you read?"

"Chopper 714, this is Turkey One, reading you loud and clear; welcome back, George," said Darley into the handheld Motorola.

"Turkey One, this is 714, you guys owe me. I practically had to steal this bird to get this stuff back to you. See you at the LZ."

We made the yellow smoke as 714 appeared over the ridge, and watched as the Huey gracefully touched down in the gusty afternoon wind. Thompson and Speakman were out, grinning
continued on page 73



Reisinger prepares to pop a smoke grenade as Ladas guides in chopper



Arrival of chopper with medicine appeased villagers who had threatened team with hanging.

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BIG BORE BLASTERS

2ND NATIONAL HANDGUN METALLIC SILHOUETTE CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Lee Jurras

Visualize a shooting sport requiring the precision of "International Rapid Fire," combined with hunting Alaskan moose with a handgun. This will give you an idea of the biggest change and fastest growing form of handgun shooting competition in the last twenty years. Its called "Handgun Metallic Silhouette Shooting." Patterned after rifle metallic, the same steel targets are used, except at reduced ranges. The course can be fired with any handgun of .357 Magnum caliber or larger, from any position, without

scope or artificial rest. To WIN, it takes a man-sized hog leg with full bore loads, add a touch of physical ingredients like an educated trigger finger, attached to a steel-fisted grip, coupled to a steady eye; long accustomed to wind doping, and you have the formula.

The rules are few and simple. The competition is intended for true hunting handguns, fired under near field conditions. Scoring is by hits and misses, with no close nines or X counts. The target either falls or it doesn't. This type of scoring is both practical and adds tremendously to spectator appeal.

The targets are 1/2" and 3/8" steel plate, approximating life-sized birds and animals. They are set in banks of five, with two minutes allowed for five shots, at each of the following ranges: 50 meter (chicken), 100 meter (pig), 150 meter (turkey) and 200 meter (ram).

In National competition, ten shots are fired at ten targets at each of the four ranges, over two days, for a total of eighty shots. To give the newcomer an idea of the sport; a 158 gr. JSP bullet fired from a six inch barreled .357 Magnum, will NOT consistently knock over the turkey at 150 meters, UNLESS hit in the upper third of the target. This becomes an exacting test of the shooter's ability.

About 20 months ago, I started promoting a national competition of this type, to encourage the sport of handgun hunting.

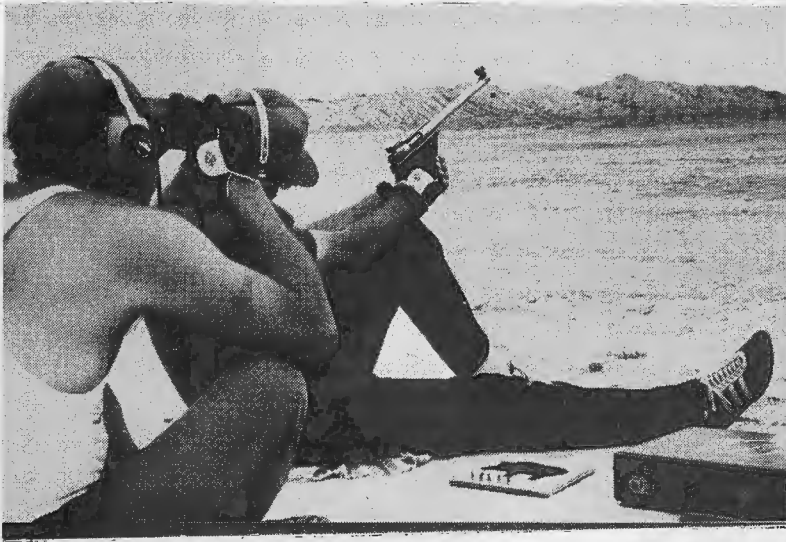


Its purpose was not only to promote handgun hunting in those states whose game laws allowed the taking of big game with handguns, but to display the feasibility to those states whose game laws presently forbid the use of handguns in the taking of big game.

With the help of pistoleros, Dale Miller and Dutch Snow, of Tucson, Arizona, the "1st National Handgun Metallic Silhouette Championships" were held in September 1975, at the Three Points Shooting facility near Tucson. Fifty-three shooters from thirteen states, Canada and Mexico participated. In the following thirteen months as a result of the first match's success, Western Regional and East Coast Regional competitions were established, and the "2nd National Handgun Metallic Silhouette Championships" were held, October 1, 2, 3, 1976 in El Paso, Texas. Because of its attendant media coverage, a nationwide interest has grown from clubs and individual handgunners alike.



L.E. Jurras is shown with 1976 National Champion, Jose' Porras, of Juarez, Mexico.



National Team Champions, Toddy and Chapman firing during the team match. Rules allow for a spotter/coach. (AM in recoil and empty cartridge case in the air, appears near muzzle).



George C. Nonte, S.O.F. Staffer, discusses the merits of the Auto Mag with Don Jetter, 1975 National Champion.



Ocie McAbee of LaPuente, California, an up and coming star in metallic silhouette competition. This gal makes a lot of guys stand and take notice (of her shooting ability)

To satisfy this instant interest, and to establish a set of rules and standards, the "International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association" was formed in October 1976. John Adams of Manhattan Beach, California, was elected director, and a seven member advisory council was appointed to serve as a tech committee. In addition to establishing rules, governing state, regional, national, and international competition, the Association is designed to assist all clubs or individual handgunners wishing to hold or participate in handgun metallic competition.

Beginning in 1977, there will be two classes of handguns that may be used in metallic silhouette competition: the "Production" and the "Un-limited" classifications. Production, as the name implies, is any handgun, catalogued and readily available to the general public, without external modification. Un-limited, will cover all other guns, but limited to 4½ lbs. maximum weight, and a 15" maximum sight radius. State, regional, national or international titles can only be won by shooters shooting guns conforming to the "Production" class. The sport is designed to appeal to the largest number of shooters and to promote the sport of handgun hunting. The advisory council felt that to do otherwise would limit metallic silhouette competition to a few handgun specialists. However, the Association does not intend to penalize these handgun specialists; they will shoot for trophies and "Un-limited" titles.

The 2nd Annual Handgun Metallic Silhouette Championships were held October 1, 2, and 3, 1976 at El Paso, Texas, under the sponsorship of the Ft. Bliss Rod & Gun Club. Friday, October 1, was given over to the "Two-Man Team Championships."

Competing with blowing dust, caused by near gale force winds, 38 shooters, representing 19 teams, vied for the title, Two-Man Team Champions. Notwithstanding the elements, scores were tough, indicating the caliber of competition due to come over the next two days. As the dust settled and the scores tallied, Ray Chapman and W. A. "Buck" Toddy, from Southern California, emerged as the new title holders.

Both Ray and Buck used 10½" barreled .44 Auto Mags to score a winning (56) out of a possible 80. Incidentally, Ray Chapman was 1975 "World Combat Match Champion" and Runner-up in the 1976 "World Combat Matches." W. A. "Buck" Toddy, a consistent winner in West Coast combat matches, also won the 1976 Western Regional Metallic Silhouette Individual Champion.

In the Runner-up spot, was former Mexican Olympic Team shooter, Jose' Porras, of Juarez, Mexico and teammate Jose' Calzada of El Paso. Both Porras and Calzada, shot Porras' modified Remington XP-100, chambered for the

"30 Dogie" cartridge, for a combined score of (52).

In third place, was the team of Elgin Gates, Sr. and Elgin Gates, Jr. Shooting a borrowed gun, the Gates' teamed up with a score of (49). The personable Elgin Gates, internationally known big-game hunter, and author, has annexed about every shotgun competition title around, and appears to be trying the same thing in handgun metallics. Amiable Elgin, Jr., a Deputy Sheriff, working out of Barstow, California, has all the makings of a "national class" metallic shooter.

Saturday, October 2, 63 shooters began the first of two days of competition for the National Individual, Class, and Cup Match titles. Competitors received a reprieve from the elements in the form of winds of less than gale force and partially clearing skies. The clearing skies were questionable, as a change from overcast to bright sunlight plays hell with sight pictures at 200 meters. As competition progressed through the day, new names cropped up on the national shooting scene. At the end of the day, it was still a tight-packed, wide open race.

On Sunday, October 3, the weather improved and by 11:00 a.m., it appeared that the National Individual title was a four-man race. By early afternoon, it became a two-man race. José Porras was in the clubhouse with a fantastic (63) out of a possible (80). Tom Beall of Chaparral, New Mexico, was on the line, in the last relay for his final 5 shots at the 200 meter sheep. At this point, Tom needed four rams for an outright win, and three for a tie and shoot-off. With spectators and photographers crowding the line behind Beall and spotter/coach Elgin Gates, Sr., the pressure was on! As the muzzle blast of Tom's last shot echoed over those west Texas plains, Tom had connected with two of the five rams, for a total of (62) and the National Individual Runner-up title.

As the trophies were awarded, many new names were added to National Class competition.

It's a whole new concept for competitive handgunners, so in '77, let's see some of you local and regional "hot rock," "practical" handgunners making the Metallic Silhouette scene.

For further information on metallic silhouette matches write to:
John Adams
Director
I.H.M.S.A.
P.O. Box 1358
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Scores on Page 62



S.O.F. Staffer, Lee E. Jurras, presents the "S.O.F. Trophy" to the Two-man Team Champions, (left) Ray Chapman & W.A. "Buck" Toddy of California. The serving trays are kept by the shooters.



A highly modified gun designed for metallic silhouette competition. Under 1977 rules, this gun can only be fired in the "Un-limited" class and the shooter must fire class AA. A Remington XP-100, chambered for the 308 x 1.5".



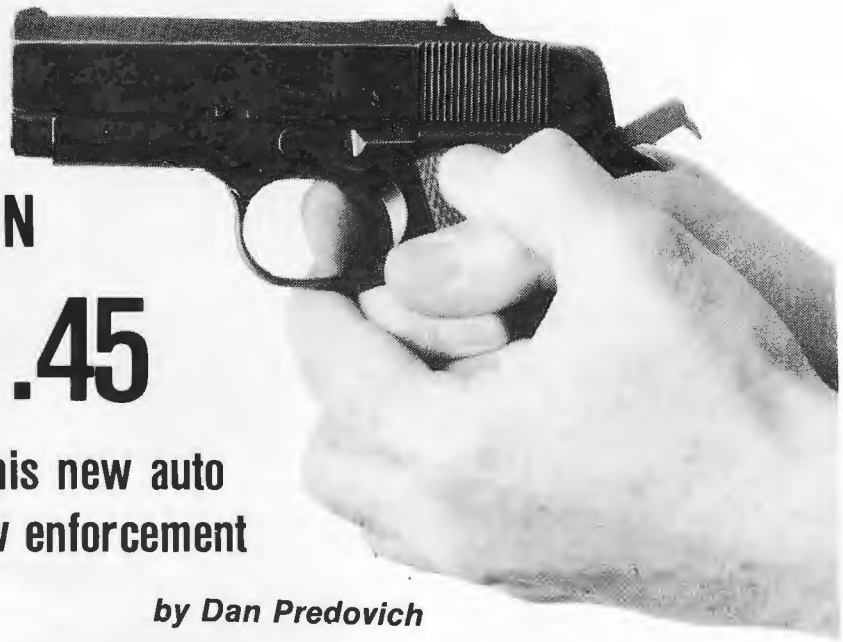
Noted gun writer, Hal Swiggett (R), presents Joe Mott with a Ruger SBH. for winning the 200 meter "Ruger Cup Match." Joe hit (14) of 20 Rams at 200 meters. This is some kind of shooting!

TEST & EVALUATION

DETONICS .45

A pocketful of punch, this new auto is already a favorite of law enforcement personnel.

by Dan Predovich



Daniel Predovich is currently attached to the Special Investigations Unit of a Denver, Colorado metropolitan police agency. He has five years experience in police firearms training. Predovich has a Master rating in NRA Police Competition and Class "A" in International Combat Competition. He was the 1975 Colorado State NRA Police Pistol Champion. He is the 1976 Rocky Mountain Combat Pistol Champion and the Director of the Colorado Combat Pistol League. Predovich has been a student of Jeff Cooper's for the past

few years and is presently associated with Cooper's "American Pistol Institute."

I've never had much trouble carrying any of my Colt .45 autos simply tucked into the waistband of my trousers, but in warm shirt-sleeve weather in Colorado, concealing the big auto can be difficult. I do occasionally carry a well broken-in S&W Chief's Special Airweight, in situations where concealment is a big problem. However, if there is any way to keep from leaving my .45 at home, you'd better believe I'll have it with me. I've been known to carry a worked-over Commander in a leather "stash pouch" hung from my belt or tucked in a boot top under my jeans' pantsleg. I could never quite see my way to lay out the better part of five hundred bucks and a year-long wait for one of the custom "chopped and channeled" .45 sorties.

Recently, a few production shortened .45 autos have come to light, one of them the Detonics .45 auto I now have in hand. My example, a prototype of the production model, has accompanied and comforted me in the various dark bars and dark corners where my Chief sends me.

Detonics .45 Associates of Seattle, Washington, have developed what is essentially a production model of the shortened and customized Colt .45 auto that has been so popular and profitable for specializing gunsmiths throughout the country. The Detonics is of all steel construction. Overall length is six and three-quarters inches from the front of the slide to the end of the main spring housing. The frame height is approximately one inch shorter and the slide length almost one inch shorter than the same dimensions on my Colt Commander. Workmanship is flawless. All pins and

springs (except the sear spring and recoil springs) are interchangeable with my Colt autos, as are the thumb safety, disconnect, extractor, firing pin, sear and slide top, to name a few. This interchangeability is a definite plus for the Detonics, considering the easy accessibility of Colt and G.I. parts. Although the Detonics magazine is almost three-quarters of an inch shorter than that of a Colt, the Detonics will accept the Colt magazines without complaint. Have you ever tried to find spare magazines for the Star P.D.?

Sights on the Detonics are fixed and wide, though not as deep as I would like. The magazine well is beveled to facilitate rapid reloading. An interesting feature of the magazine is that the tip of the stabilizing guide of the magazine follower acts as an indicator for a fully loaded magazine by extending three-sixteenths of an inch below the floor plate. The indicator tab on my prototype is squared-off with resulting sharp corners that snag clothing; this problem has already been corrected on production models. With one in the chamber, the Detonics will hold seven rounds of powerful .45 auto ammo in a package that can be covered by your hand. The little weapon feeds hard-ball, hollow-point, cast semi-wadcutter bullets and even empty cases. Most auto feed ramps are left pretty rough from factory machining. The Detonics feed ramp is polished smooth and the barrel is throated.

There is no barrel bushing on the Detonics .45 auto. The barrel diameter at the muzzle is sufficient to tightly fit the mouth of the slide when in battery, thus eliminating the need for a bushing. The barrel diameter decreases smoothly from muzzle to breach. The rear of the



Author carried modified Colt Commander (above) or S & W Chiefs Special Airweight for hideout gun before obtaining Detonic .45.

Detonics barrel closely resembles the Colt product. The recoil spring, which is actually a spring within a spring, surrounds a steel spring guide. Disassembly, therefore, begins with the removal of the slide stop and is sheer simplicity.

As with custom .45's, the ejection port has been relieved to allow plenty of clearance for the ejected shell casing. The trigger is denoted by Detonics Associates as a "combat trigger", that interprets as a heavier than target-type pull, but crisp, clean and reliable. The thumb safety on my weapon was a G.I. issue type.

The Detonics finds itself in the unique role of competing for two markets. It is a production weapon that makes standard most of the popular custom options available up to now only on a pay-and-wait basis. The list "custom" features of the Detonics is impressive: (1) Full, shortening of slide, barrel, and frame, (2) Combat accuracy job, including a unique self-adjusting cone barrel, (3) Relieved ejection port, (4) Throated barrel, (5) Beveled magazine well, (6) Wide fixed combat sights, (7) Combat tuned trigger, (8) Solid recoil spring guide, (9) Loaded magazine indicator tab, (10) Designed for simple field disassembly, (11) Hammer tang modified — **no hammer bite**.

The overall impression of the Detonics .45 auto is that of a beautifully fitted, solid weapon. It gives the feeling that if you threw the piece at your basement wall, you might crack the foundation, but you wouldn't hurt the weapon. The Detonics is a no-nonsense, very compact and powerful weapon.

Suggested retail is \$395. Not bad for a custom shortened .45 with immediate availability. For further information contact: Detonics .45 Associates, 2500 Seattle Tower, 3rd and University, Seattle, Washington, 98101.



Jeff Cooper tries out the Detonic at IPSC Sectional Matches. Was impressed.



Detonics .45 disassembled into major component parts. Note enlarged barrel diameter at muzzle which eliminates barrel bushing.



Size of Detonic compares favorably with Chief Special.



Gitlin, Brown and Cooper discuss merits of Detonic. All felt it is ideal for concealment.

NRA SURVIVAL SCHOOL

"Taming The Wilds In Northern New Mexico"

by **Bill Davidson**

Pilot survival is the latest in a series of survival-oriented programs sponsored by the National Rifle Association (NRA) at its 36,000-acre Outdoor Center near Raton, New Mexico.

In mid-fall, 1976, the NRA trained 15 fliers from across the country in a week-long survival program designed for private aircraft pilots. The program opened with two days of classes, moved into the field, and finished with a 72-hour "solo" for each participant.

Border patrolman Al Conroy, who was once one of the youngest police officers in California (joined a Bay Area police program when 18-year-olds were eligible), had already acquired experience as a pilot as well as a peace officer. He flies for the U.S. Immigration Border Patrol out of Southwestern New Mexico, one of the busiest, illicit drug and illegal immigrant traffic areas in the world. So perhaps he had more incentive to learn about pilot survival.

But all 15 pilot-students bore down hard that week, trying to learn, polish, or swap skills and techniques that might mean the difference between survival and tragedy after a plane crash in the wilderness.

The training included a 20-minute firearms briefing by Frank Foote, NRA Raton Manager, as well as detailed seminars by such specialists as Capt. R.C. Wheeler, a Royal Canadian Air Force transport-and-rescue officer, and Maj. Duane W. Farnham of the U.S. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

Bob Whitmore, Denver executive for Wilderness Institute for Survival Education (WISE), offered additional information about equipment and techniques.

Keith Thompson NRA headquarters, Washington, D.C., coordinated and Ladd Gordon supervised the program. The latter, a director of the New Mexico Fish and Game Department, now an NRA official based at Raton, is one of the best-known wildlife professionals in the country.

The NRA has conducted survival-training courses at Raton since January, 1975. The series began with a five-day, midwinter endurance trek across the ridges and mesas of the NRA center. Since then, groups of writers, broadcasters, women's teams, teachers, recreation specialists and others have participated. The fall, 1976, exercise

was the first specifically designed for pilots, although commercial airline and military pilots have participated in other NRA survival programs. A pilot himself, Thompson felt that many others would be interested in and benefit from a survival program aimed exclusively at plane jockeys.

The firearms talk was short since a majority of the participating pilots were acquainted with firearms. More time was spent on instruction from the two service pilots. Wheeler, whose courses on defensive flying, use of the Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) and basic survival skills were well-received, flew from Edmonton, Alberta, home base for the RCAF's 450th Transport and Rescue Squadron with which he serves. While Wheeler dealt with Arctic and other survival situations, Farnham discussed coordination with search-and-rescue organizations like the Civil Air Patrol.

Farnham explained that private aircraft flying under Visual Flight Rules (VFR), when more than three hours overdue or immediately overdue under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR), become the target of searches coordinated through his home



NRA Outdoor Center Managing Director Frank Foote lectures on survival firearms. Foote recommended soft-point ammo for those choosing M-1 carbines. Light weight is important for aircraft survival guns.



Individual shelters with no "company" were 3-day final tests for pilot survival trainees.

CLOTHING

Boots (hunting, hiking or climbing type; waterproofing required for leather boots)
Socks—2 prs. wool
Underwear—Fishnet, thermal knit or wool
T-shirts—material optional
Pants—wool (GI surplus recommended)
Shirts—one light wool, one heavy wool (or woolen sweater)
Jacket—Windbreaker-type (down, wool or 60-40 cloth)
Rain gear—Poncho and chaps or two-piece vented rainsuit
Mittens or gloves

EQUIPMENT

Sheath knife (5" or 6" blade)
Flashlight—small, with extra alkaline batteries
GI metal canteen, cup
Sierra cup
Sunglasses
Personal medications
Toilet tissue
Small notepad, pencil
Camera, film (type optional)
Personal cooking gear (pan, pot, fork, spoon)

INDIVIDUAL SURVIVAL KIT

Compass—Silva recommended
Metal match
2 pads #0000 steel wool in zip-lock bag
Varco Woodsman wire saw
25 feet of parachute cord
Roll of Scotch brand #33 cold-weather tape (for taping shelter)
20 feet copper snare wire (24 or 28 gauge)
Thermos-brand Sportsman's blanket
Thermos-brand space emergency blanket
GI glass signal mirror
Whistle (plastic)
2 metal 35mm film cans (best for fire-starter materials)
2 plastic 35mm film cans (next best for fire-starter)
Belt pouch or "fanny" pack to carry survival items; a day pack was not allowed.



ABOVE: Group survival simulated conditions faced by three to four persons surviving a small plane crash. Space blankets, tents and reflectors insured warmth on 30-degree nights.

BELOW: Group survival occupied second day and night afield. Survival trainees include (L to R) Herb Kinsey of Santa Fe, N.M.; Dave Kaufman of Jeffersontown, Ky.; Denice Cameron of Albuquerque, N.M., and Joe Petrauskas of Albuquerque, N.M.



base at Scott AFB.

Wheeler said about 6,600 false ELT activations occur each year due to equipment malfunctions or sudden aircraft maneuvers. He said downed pilots use airplane parts—seats, fuel, tools, etc.—as survival aids, should stay close to their planes and be sure to carry crew survival kits. The latter should be in addition to whatever survival equipment individual crew members might take along. A four-person survival kit weighs between eight and ten pounds, the Canadian said.

Whitmore preached the stay-by-your-plane message, too, explaining that over half the planes downed in the United States

are located within the first 24 hours; 90 percent are found within 72 hours.

Ironically, while pilots were hearing that message, an exception to the rule was taking place in the Rocky Mountains near Salida, Colorado, a few hundred miles to the north of Raton.

A small-plane pilot and his 29-year-old wife, downed in the subfreezing higher Rockies, walked out for help to end a five-day ordeal. The pilot, age 32, later admitted he was "guilty of not filing a flight plan." But, "We get the credit for surviving," he said. Both were in reasonably good shape after the experience.

In another classroom segment, Glenn

Cheney, Colorado CAP wing officer, gave the pilots a presentation on mountain flying, search and rescue.

After the in-class work, NRA staffers led the pilots to an outdoor center field up North Willow Canyon. The pilots spent their first morning in the field working on fires, signals, snares, shelters, field packs, navigation, and first aid. In the afternoon, the trainees split into teams of three or four for overnight team survival drill. Each group, accompanied by an instructor, set up shelters, built fires and passed the night under conditions approximating those facing the crew of a downed plane.

continued on page 66

ROCKY MOUNTAIN IPSC SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

COMBAT SHOOTING

by Dan Predovich

Interest in "combat" or "practical pistol" matches, which has grown rapidly over the past decade, has reached a new apex with the formation of the International Shooting Confederation (IPSC). The IPSC U.S. Championships will be held in June 1977 in Denver, Colorado; the IPSC World Championships in August 1977, in Salisbury, Rhodesia.

The guiding hand behind the IPSC belongs to the same grand master who founded the Southwest Combat Pistol League (SCPL), Jeff Cooper. Since its formation in 1963, not only has the SCPL grown, but numerous clubs and leagues have also been organized both in the U.S. and several foreign countries.

In May 1976, a number of top specialists in the field, including Cooper, held a conference in Columbia, Missouri, where the IPSC was born. A governing body was formed and the numerous clubs and leagues were divided into eight sections under the national leadership of Jeff Cooper. The United States, in turn, is one of nine regions worldwide. Each section and region hosts a championship match.

The first of the Sectionals was the Rocky Mountain Championship match held in Denver, Colorado on September 11th and 12th. More than forty of the top pistoleros of the seven state area showed up at Table Mountain Gun Club on a warm Saturday morning. Trunk lids and

tailgates swung open and shooting equipment began to litter the range. Almost every conceivable combination of serviceable weapon and holster graced the respective hips of the competitors. Revolver men chided the automatic shooters, who, in turn, belittled the wheelgunners. A better group of sportsmen would be difficult to find.

Practical or combat shooting is one of the few shooting sports that truly attracts spectators. It is not only challenging to participate in, but it is also fascinating to watch. The action and obvious skill appeal to the spectators much as tennis and golf appeal to their respective followers. Some spectators enjoy the sport for its own sake. Others watch the top shootists with a careful eye, hoping to catch a glimpse of the secret of winning.

The first stage of the standardized sectional match consisted of single shots fired from twenty-five meters starting from the holster. Time allowed was two and one-half seconds. Stage two, known as the "El Presidente," involved three silhouette targets, ten meters from the firing line. The participant starts facing away from the targets, with his hands clasped. On the starting signal, he turns and fires two rounds at each of three targets, reloads and fires two more at each target. The point total is divided by the time, in order to arrive at the total for that stage. Saturday shooting ended at 4:00 p.m.

Stage three, the most interesting to watch, was christened the "Columbia Fumble" at the 1976 Columbia Conference. Early Sunday morning, this last stage began, with the shooter lining up five meters behind the firing line. On the starting signal, he runs toward the firing line, picking up a large can from the ground and placing it over a shoulder-high stake. Once the can is on the stake, the shooter draws his weapon and fires two shots on a target five meters away and two shots at a target twelve meters away, at which time he reloads. The shooter then fires until he strikes a metal plate ten meters away to stop the time. His time is then divided into his numerical score to obtain the final score for this stage. Stage one was fired twice: stage two, twice; and stage three, six times.

At the end of the shooting on Sunday, the results showed that Dan Predovich of the Glendale, Colorado Police Department won high overall, the Rocky Mountain Championship and a custom-built Colt .45 Commander. Predovich shot a .45 Colt auto customised by Jim Hoag of Canoga Park, California. He used a modified Rogers Holster (Tallahassee, Fla.). Lt. Bill Belt of the Englewood, Colorado Police Department ran only three points behind Predovich. He used a modified Colt .45 auto and a belt loop-type high ride holster. He won First Class A and a Smith and Wesson three inch Model 36.

Robert White of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department gave an outstanding performance with his Smith and Wesson Model 15. His reloading time closely matched that of the automatic hot shots. He reloads his revolver while holding it close into his body near his reloader case. He does not change hands to reload, as is normal to revolver speed loading. Maintaining the weapon in his right hand eliminates wasted motion on the reload. Bob uses Dade speed loaders and a Bianchi front break holster. For his expertise, he won Second Place Class A and a Redfield spotting scope.



Competitors of the first IPSC Sectional with awards. U.S. Championships will also be held in Denver, Colorado in June.



Author, second from right, took first place and won *Soldier of Fortune* traveling trophy. Jeff Cooper refereed matches; SOF publisher Brown placed 4th in novice class.



Jeff Cooper, President of the International Shooting Confederation, presents Brown with 4th place trophy—novice class.

Sponsors for the Rocky Mountain Sectional include:

Soldier of Fortune Magazine, Championship Traveling Trophy; Foothills Shooting Center, Custom .45 Colt auto; Jerry Snapp, Smith and Wesson Model 36; Redfield Gunsight Co., Redfield Spotting Scope; Gart Brothers Sports Castle, Trophies, Knife; A. G. Russell Knife Co., Russell Commemorative Knife; 300 Gunsmith Service, Trophies; Swansons Custom Firearms, Knife; Knife world, Knife; and Gerber Knife Co., Knife.



1976 ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

High Overall	Daniel Predovich	.45 Colt Auto	165.45
1st Place	Bill Belt	.45 Colt Auto	162.04
2nd Place	Robert White	.38 S&W Rev.	145.03
3rd Place	Chuck Taylor	.45 Commander	144.23
4th Place	Don Jandro	.38 S&W Rev.	132.26
5th Place	Ed Zehner	.45 Colt Auto	131.81
6th Place	Tony Datillo	.44 Magnum	123.88
7th Place	Ray Pezolt	.45 Commander	121.36
8th Place	Doug Brand	.38 S&W Rev.	120.12
9th Place	Jack Gartner	.45 Colt Auto	114.79
10th Place	Bob Greenlee	.45 Colt Auto	112.89
11th Place	Robert Nelson	.45 Colt Auto	107.05
Novice Class			
1st Place	Harry Bovos	.45 Colt Auto	134.64
2nd Place	George Wheeler	.45 Colt Auto	132.23
3rd Place	Robert Gray	.45 Colt Auto	130.83
4th Place	Robert Brown	.45 Colt Auto	111.14
5th Place	Bud Greenwald	.45 Colt Auto	104.30
6th Place	Jerry Snapp	.45 Colt Auto	100.75
7th Place	Richard Predovich	.45 Colt Auto	100.04
8th Place	Dean Johnson	.45 Colt Auto	97.93
9th Place	Dana Drenkowski	.45 Commander	97.43
10th Place	Lou Gabos	.45 S&W Rev.	93.29
	Art Gitlin	.45 Colt Auto	92.71
	David Kosmatka	.41 Magnum	91.16
	David London	.45 Colt Auto	86.65
	Bob Tagart	.38 S&W Rev.	82.42
	Dennis Potter	.38 S&W Rev.	82.16
	Len Horner	.45 Colt Auto	78.58
	Robert Dean	.357 Mag. S&W	71.29
	Jim Grafe	.45 Colt Auto	64.12
	H. E. Williams	.45 Colt Auto	52.00
	Ralph Royer	9mm S&W M-59	30.67
	Charles Winter	did not finish	



SOF staffer Art Gitlin stumbles through the "Columbia Fumble." From upper left to lower right: Gitlin prepares to run to stake picking up can and placing can on stake; then engages targets.

After the match was finished, each competitor went over and over in his own mind the mistakes he had made and the equipment he would alter or change. Whatever resulted from the rehash, be assured that each will be a better shooting athlete next match — and will look forward to the World Championships in Salisbury next August.

The National Championship Invitational Match will be held in Denver, in June 1977. For information write: Director, National Championship, 7383 South Vance Street, Littleton, Colorado 80123. Please enclose sufficient return postage.

For information concerning combat shooting in your area, contact the closest representative listed on page 75



As our peaceful-minded defender walks along, book in hand, a pair of local toughs size him up as easy pickens. But, perhaps he has a surprise or two up his sleeve, or even in his hand.



As the first hood steps forward to grab him, our boy throws a feint with his *left* hand, then swings his right arm (stiff) in a wide arc toward the punk's head, striking with the *edge* of his hard-bound book to the area just behind the hood's ear. Don't cut this strike short, follow through.



Fully expecting the the attack, our defend foot, holding his bent shoulder. As soon as range, defender snap the same time swingin hood's head.

URBAN STREET SURVIVAL



Bracing the book with both palms, defender strikes the attacker in the throat. This strike is a straight thrust. The book and fully-extended arms give the defender good "reach." Power is derived from the snap of arms straight forward.



Following through with a blow to the solar plexus will help set up the next shot. Once again, the edge of the book (weapon) is braced by the defender's palm. This strike is an upward arc.



A two-handed, over the edge of the b tacker's empty skull ceive a well-earned wake up with a hell of price he pays for the



Second punk to continue
er steps back with his left
right arm near his left
the attacker steps into
s his hips to the right, at
g his right arm toward the



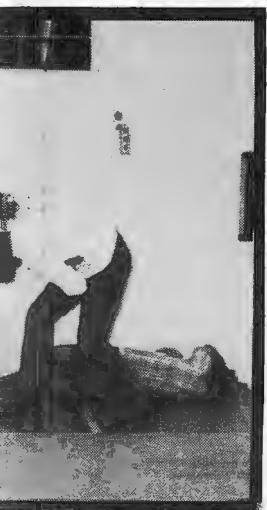
Blocking the now mis-aimed blow his attacker
throws, defender snaps a raising blow, arcing
into the punks "tenders." That'll take his mind
off girls for a while! Notice that defender added
force to this strike by putting his hip behind it.



This time, using a two-handed grip, defender
strikes the hood in the solar plexus with the
corner of the book. That should take care of
him, but here comes number one again, looking
for more.

PART 6

by
Art Gitlin



thead, downward strike
ook to the base of the at-
should cause him to re-
rest. Of course, he may
a headache, but that's the
game he plays!



Defender, now through with his chores, con-
tinues on toward his friend's house to return the
book he borrowed.

In our continuing effort to help the
fighting man become better able to de-
fend himself, we are trying to impress
upon our readers that almost anything
can be used as an effective weapon. In
the above photos, a hard covered book
in the hands of a trained fighter puts
away two would-be muggers. Look
around you right now and count some of
the potential weapons that are within
reach. If you are reading this, then I
know for sure of at least one, this maga-
zine! (See SOF Issue #1) Are your car
keys in your pocket? If they are, place
them in the palm of your hand and allow
the shafts of two keys to protrude be-
tween your fingers; make a fist and
you'll see the sawtooth cutting edge
your "innocent" keys can provide. A
heavy ashtray has ended more than one
barroom brawl, when applied with
proper care and force to the cranial re-
gion of an attacker. A lamp usually has a
weighted base; does that give you any
ideas? A lit cigarette flipped toward an
attacker's face will cause any man to
flinch or duck! I could go on and on, but
instead, let's leave it at this. If you really
think about it, you need never be com-
pletely unarmed. But think about it
before you need to. You usually don't
have time to think when the fight starts.
In the next issue, we'll start into some
empty hand techniques. Write to us if
you have any questions, comments or
suggestions. Send them to Art Gitlin,
Martial Arts Editor, c/o this magazine.



BLACK WATER, BODIES, AND BOMBS

by David Vine

Moving cautiously the frogmen-cops searched the cold murky water for the explosives. A tipster had alerted police that three cases of stolen dynamite could be found next to a bridge — but was it a trap? Dive master Bob Leavitt knew that if it wasn't a set-up this was still no routine job.

Submerged dynamite sweats nitroglycerine making it doubly dangerous. Since Bob was trained in explosives while in the 7th Engineer Bat. of the 3rd Marine Br. at Camp Pendleton, he was uniquely qualified for this job. The divers felt their way along the bottom. Visibility was only a few feet and they had to pick their way around wires, grocery carriages, and other garbage that finds its way into New Haven's West River.

Suddenly a diver came upon three cardboard boxes. The diver examined the cases from a distance — he did not touch them. The police department armorer was topside and he confirmed the boxes to be the target. Going back down, the men checked for trigger wires and after further consultations with explosive experts, the stolen dynamite, some 75 sticks, was hauled up from the river bed and gingerly placed into the bomb disposal truck. This was another mission accomplished quickly and professionally by the men of the New Haven (Conn.) Police Dept.'s Underwater Search and Recovery Team (NHPD-USRT).

Sgt. Carl Giannotti is the officer in charge of the team. He served with the 4th Air Commandos 1st Wing in Vietnam from 1965 to 1966. Among other specialties, Giannotti is a skilled commercial pilot and is in charge of the Dept.'s

Special Operations Branch. "It's exciting to go down in O-O visibility and accomplish a mission," he says, adding, "It's a good feeling to know you have a competent team."

Carl points out the Connecticut coast city has 50 square miles of water jurisdiction — twice the area of land responsibility. While they work closely with the local Coast Guard group, the PD has the legal responsibility for the waters. The team strives to complete each assignment quickly and professionally. Confusion and a moment of needless delay could spell death for accident victims trapped in a submerged auto with only an air pocket to keep them alive.

NHPD's USRT has gained fame on the East Coast. On several occasions they have been airlifted by CG chopper to assist in various water related emergencies. They have been observed by other PD's who are setting up their own diving teams. The keys to their success are simple — training and organization.

While volunteer divers mean well, they sometimes turn an op into a circus. They are often unorganized and usually don't use a search plan. The NHPD team of 20 police divers all know what their assigned responsibilities are. NHPD always had a few qualified divers among its ranks, but with no organization any recovery or search effort was at best haphazard. In 1974 the USRT was formed.

This was after an embarrassment where the Dept. couldn't locate a submerged body until a day after the drowning. They called in outside help, since NHPD then had only one sport diver on the police rolls. Two-and-a-half years later they have a highly skilled and well equipped team with the experience of more than 100 ops. They include body recoveries, evidentiary searches, assists in searching for and recovering crashed planes and helicopters, and explosives recovery and security checks.

The chain of command is simple, but effective. The OIC, Giannotti, is the man in charge during ops with overall responsibility for the team. Bob Leavitt, the most experienced diver on the team, is the dive master. He has total authority over the divers in the water, irregardless of rank. Leavitt makes the "go or no go"

decision, and specifies the tactics and techniques to be used after first going down to check conditions. The functionary include a liaison officer who handles relations with other officials and authorities involved in an op and boat support personnel.

Organization doesn't stop here. When the team is called in all the facts surrounding the incident must be collected so the right tactics can be employed. In search of a drowning victim they must know what kind of clothing he wore, the victim's height and weight, what he ate or drank, the direction and flow of current or tides, the condition of the bottom, and in the case of a female victim, whether she had large breasts. Large breasted women can be expected to float off the bottom. A fully clothed person might catch his clothes on a submerged branch and may not float downstream. The success of a diving mission comes from preparation. Once all the facts are known, the most adaptable search plan is chosen.

The simplest pattern is the parallel line search, used in river searches. A man stands on each bank of the river with a rope strung between them. Depending on the visibility, and the river's width, divers space themselves along the length of the rope. The rope is walked downstream with the divers swimming parallel to the banks and the men on land walk the rope downstream.

In mid-water, a straight line search is used. An anchor bouy or the boat's anchor chain is used. A rope is attached and divers again spread out along its



Leavitt talks on the radio while Muller scans horizon with binoculars.



Lt. Tom Muller, Commanding Officer of the PD's Marine Div. takes a regulator out of its compartment

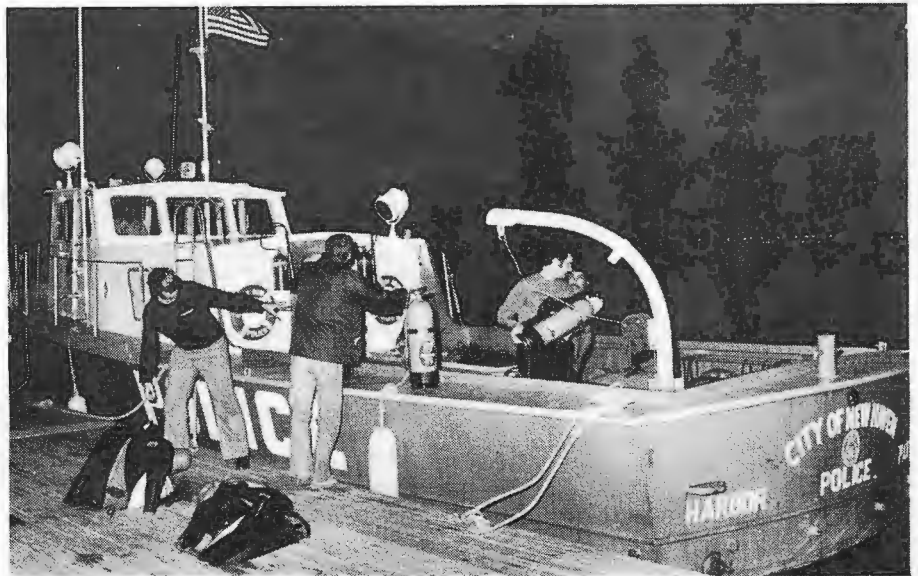
length. They proceed to circle the anchor keeping the rope taut while searching for the target. The anchor is moved if necessary and an overlapping circular area is searched.

If a strong river current is encountered, a fan-out search is used. A rope is attached to a solid anchor on the bank, such as a dock piling. Divers along the rope make a sweep of the bottom. The rope may be moved and anchored at a different spot till all of the bottom has been searched or the target found.

A variation of this is the often used 180 degree search pattern. This would be used when a shoreline must be searched. A rope is anchored on shore and divers spread themselves out along the rope's length. They make a half-circle starting from one side of the shore anchor point. They swim along the bottom until they reach the shore on the other side of the anchor point.

When the real thing occurs, on duty police personnel are called first. If it is a major emergency, such as a large plane crash into the sound, a telephone fan-out system would be used to alert all the team members. They try to keep four or five divers on duty at any one time. The team is broken down into three groups code-named "Razorback Squad," "F Troop," and "First Team." Each corresponds to a particular shift.

This organization and training has helped the NHPD-USRT become a model for other police departments. All members are policemen first, and they have assigned responsibility, and very thorough training. All this is a must in what one team member calls "a gloomy, piss job." He says the men try to inject a bit of humor into the job, especially on assignments such as body recovery. They may kid among themselves but always show respect for the victim and next of kin. They have a firm policy of never bringing out the remains of a victim uncovered. They will take a body bag and

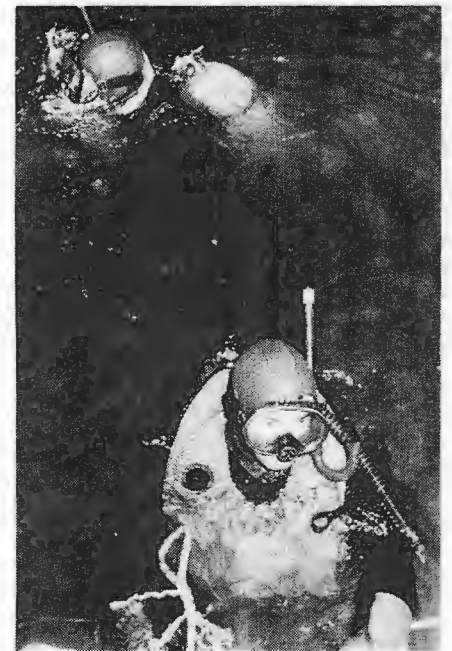


Team members load up for a night dive.

stokes litter into the water and cover the submerged body. This is an effort to preserve the last bit of human dignity.

Equipment and training are just tools — the job is hairy and it takes a dedicated professional to make the kind of dives these men regularly undertake. Some have previous diving experience and other skills to draw from in their USRT work. Bob Leavitt learned about explosives while with the marines.

Officer-in-Charge Sgt. Carl Giannotti received specialized training with the Air Commandos. After he was discharged, he pursued flight training and now has commercial and instrument ratings. He sometimes flies for business and is pushing for an aviation section in the department. He once cracked a boat theft ring operating in the New Haven area after an air search of the adjacent rivers. He also transports department officials to meetings in other cities. Some of the team members were sport divers before coming aboard the USRT. All share one common factor — they are full-time



Two team members alongside boat.

police officers.

Rich Poulton, assistant dive master, puts it this way. "First I'm a policeman. Diving is a continuation of my function as a policeman — continuing the investigation into the water. You're under pressure in police diving, whether it's the pressure of time in attempting to rescue victims trapped underwater or the pressure of people watching the operation and facing the family of a drowning victim. It's like sport diving but much more hazardous."

Sport divers would never venture into 27 degree F sea water during a blizzard with zero visibility. On February 4, 1974 the team was called out to assist the nearby Milford PD. A small helicopter had gone down off shore and the local PD had no diving capability. Working with the Coast Guard, National Transportation Safety Board, and local officials the crew found the helicopter. They removed

continued on page 64



On the aft deck, team members get final instructions from Dive Master Leavitt.

BLADES FOR CONCEALMENT

A Revealing Look at Deadly Defense in Street Attire



Above: Morseth sleeve knife concealed in sleeve of field jacket. A patch of velcro has been sewn into the sleeve and the velcro-backed sheath is pressed against it. Knife is carried upside down, held in by friction fit of sheath.

In my book, **Secrets of Modern Knife Fighting** (Phoenix Press, Box 693, Boulder, Colo.), I discuss a number of knives which can be used from concealment. This article is an extension of that discussion.

Practically any knife can be concealed beneath the clothing, but the optimum concealment knife has a blade not less than three and not more than six inches long. This range of blade length is the best compromise of lethality and portability. A blade less than three inches long is unlikely to reach any vital target except the throat. A blade over six inches is difficult to carry, especially in the boot.

Basically, there are four principal places a knife can be concealed: on the belt, in the boot, on the shoulder, or in the pocket. A knife can also be concealed in the belt buckle, inside a hat, on a string down the back or front from the neck, taped to the arm or leg, or concealed in another object such as a cane or baton, but these positions are less common.

The object of a concealing arrangement is to provide a weapon that is hidden from view but easily accessible. Some arrangements are perfectly concealed but very slow to get into action. A boot knife,

for example, is better concealed but slower into action than a belt knife (since the pants leg must first be drawn up over the knife).

Some say the ideal place to conceal a knife is in the pocket. Surely the folding knife is the most convenient knife to carry and least likely to be left at home or in the barracks. At the moment, the best folding knives for self defense are "folding hunters" — lock blade knives with three or four inch blades. Unfortunately, these were designed with cutting in mind, and some are not well suited for thrusting — either they do not have a good strong point designed for penetration, or they have a slippery grip which may allow fingers to run onto the blade. Also, some of the best of these knives are too heavy for pocket carry because of brass mounts. For example, the Ridig "Apache" would have to be carried in a belt sheath. Perhaps the most convenient, practical folders for pocket carry are the Gerber FS II and the Barry Wood Mark 2. These knives will not produce a large bulge in the pocket, but they are long enough for emergency use. The biggest advantage of folders for carrying on the streets is that they serve "legitimate purposes" as well as self defense, so they are easier to explain away to some interested parties than a boot dagger.



The Morseth sleeve concealed inside a boot. A patch of velcro has been epoxied to the inside of a boot, the velcro-backed sheath is pressed against it. The best place to conceal a boot knife on the inside of the left boot where the left hand can easily pull up the cuff for a right hand draw.



Drawing the Morseth knife from inner side of left sleeve with right hand.

The following is an actual incident in which the folding knife served to defend its owner and another citizen. The account is taken from a letter written me by a man who wishes to remain anonymous.

"I carry my Wood Mark 2 vertically in my hip pocket alongside my wallet on the outside. With the knife butt up in the right hip pocket it comes out ready to open one-handed.

"Last year my son and I went to the Santa Monica Mall, parking our truck in one of the multi-story parking buildings. As we locked the vehicle, a young lady called to us. She stood by a VW sedan and opposite her, on the passenger side, holding open the door, stood a young black man. It seems he was demanding she drive him somewhere — anywhere she was going. He had just walked up and started making demands. I quietly told my son to go call a cop and as he left, I started to talk this guy out of his demands. He made it clear that he intended to drive off in that car with that girl, who he admitted he did not know, and that my presence was undesired at that time. To emphasize his point he opened his coat and displayed an eight-inch bladed \$9.98 class knife. So, I "did my trick" with my Mk. 2 and said, "O.K., Let's just all stand here and wait for the police!" He grabbed the handle of his knife, did a little mental wrestling, let go and walked away."

This is a good example of how one-hand opening techniques (discussed ex-



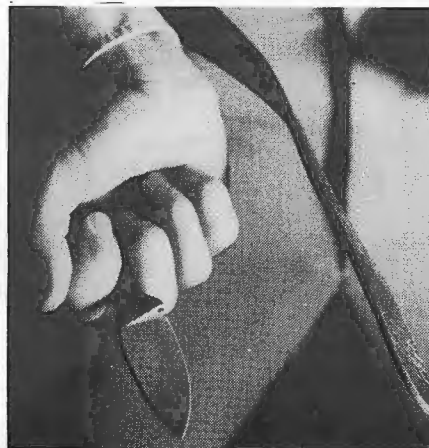
Completed draw. The thumb is behind the top quillon for a "sabre grip" while the first finger moves behind the lower quillon.

tensively in my book) can psychologically defeat an opponent before the fight starts. A second incident involving a Barry Wood Mark 2 occurred recently in Venice, California. Two men were arguing over who owed the rent money to the landlord. A friend of mine overheard the argument and went to investigate, since the woman manager of the apartment building was a friend of his. By this time he found the two men fighting. One had a substantial size advantage and had beaten his roommate into a "bundle of rags" lying on the porch of their building. My friend asked him to stop beating up the other man. The fellow refused, so my friend took out his Mk. 2 and, leaving it closed, used it like a yawara stick against the top of the man's head. This staggered the man and caused him to desist. If he had continued, the handle could have been used against more vulnerable parts of the body or the blade could have been used as a last resort.

The belt buckle knife, a variation of the classic push dagger, has become popular in recent years. Bowen Knife Co. produces one of the better ones, which they market in a double-edged and a single-edged version. The only drawbacks to the belt buckle knife are that it is not that easy to get into action, and it is conspicuous to one who knows what to look for (the knife handle should be structured identical to a conventional buckle). The most interesting incident I've heard concerning one of these knives is from a

letter once sent to W. D. Randall. The letter reads in part:

"Couple weeks ago I was at the right place at the wrong time, tossing my overshoes into my car in a parking ramp adjoining the hotel where I was staying during a two-day show. My first indication that there was anything but peace and quiet, was a yell as a guy swung a knife at me. (Somehow you can tell the kind of yell, it's just different from any other kind of sound.) I turned inside the stab and took just the hilt on my left arm and brought the left forearm up to



Finally the knife is grasped between the first two fingers in a "penholder" grip. The first jab is an under hand thrust, then the knife-hand can be turned over knuckles-up for succeeding thrusts and slashes.

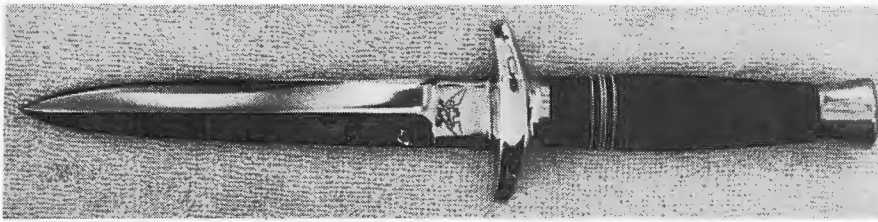
get rid of the knife and break his nose. While that was going on, I got kicked in the stomach by the second of the pair, which was my first indication that there was more than one. By this time I was kicking for No. 1's throat, but caught him in the chin instead and broke his jaw in two places, and getting to the Bowen belt knife, which was the only thing I had other than hands and feet. At the second kick I was able to twist with it and put the blade in behind No. 2's knee between the tendons. No. 1 had gone over the ramp rail (a drop of only 7 or 8 feet, but was out like a sleeping princess) and No. 2 went down with a lot of screaming. Just then a squad car reached the bottom of the ramp and one officer took the alley between the hotel and the ramp and the other came up the ramp.

"At 52 and with limited neck movement from an auto accident a few years ago, I surprised the daylights out of myself by being able to move. But those two officers were the greatest looking people I've seen in a long time! The guy in the alley was cuffed and taken to the squad car, also short some teeth and with a couple cracked ribs (probably from when he went over the railing), and the guy wearing the knife got cuffs and a tourniquet and turned out to have three broken ribs, though I have no recollection of putting a foot into him.

"The whole incident happened in maybe two or three seconds, and I just "reflected" with a lot of luck. There wasn't room to roll down and get my back where I'd have better use of my legs and better peripheral vision to see who was where. The two had robbed a gift store nearby, stabbed one of the women and beat the other, and apparently were on their way through the ramp to the maze of alleys beyond when they spotted me and must have decided on getting the car. But they didn't even ask, in which case they could have had it unless I saw an opening.

"No. 1 turned out to be a 3-time loser in Minnesota and wanted for murder in Kansas, and No. 2 had been arrested on 11 counts in about 4 years but had spent less than 30 days in jail. This time there was positive on both; one of the witnesses outside the store who ran for the phone met the squad car and both the cash and two rings from one of the women were on the pair. Turned out the one who booted me didn't shoot because the hammer of his .45 caught in the lining of his jacket. I really lucked out. But I real quick went back to wearing my boot knife at all times, because it's three times as fast as a belt knife — though I'm thankful I did have something."

A short knife of any type can be concealed in the crown of a hat. A razor or knife can be strung from the neck. A sheath knife, such as the Morseth sleeve knife, can be attached by tape or other device to the arm or leg. Razor blades can be taped inside the fingers for a



The Cooper boot knife, overall length 9½ inches, blade 4¾ inches of ¼-inch stock. The brass mounts and micarta handle make it a comparatively heavy

slapping blow. A dagger can be concealed inside a walking stick, cane, swagger stick, or police baton (the so-called "French nightstick," supposedly used by Paris police). Actually, the cane or stick is often a better weapon than the dagger it conceals, not to mention that a walking stick is legal while a swordcane is not.

Probably the most interesting concealed knife is the boot dagger. The typical blade designs are single-edged, double-edged, and triangular. The single-edged knife is best for hunting, since it will not puncture the carcass accidentally on the backstroke. Also it has an unsharpened spine to press against with the thumb for better leverage. The double-edged boot knife is the best one for fighting since it can slash in either direction as well as stab with less point drag than a single-edged blade. One variation of the double-edged stiletto is the push dagger, which is distinguished by its perpendicular handle; this type as well as the conventional stiletto can be carried in a boot. The last blade type is the triangular; it is good only for stabbing, but it has the advantage of being able to punch easily through leather and heavy clothing. Also, the triangular shaped wound does not close up easily as an icepick wound would. One example of the single-edged boot knife is the old Lile Model 7. Double-edged boot knives are made by Gerber, Morseth, Randall, Cooper and many others. Triangular boot knives are made by Dan Dennehy and Vic Anselmo.

Boot knives are becoming quite popular among police officers as last ditch self defense weapons. Sometimes they are carried at the back of the belt for cutting free from bonds or as a surprise weapon when the revolver is taken. The best use is for undercover work. Carrying a .38 snubnose revolver undercover is almost like wearing a badge in plain sight. Sometimes narco squads issue little .25 autos for undercover. A knife is even less conspicuous, since edged weapons are not generally associated with cops. One undercover New York cop who used to pose as a junkie would keep a folding knife half open beside him whenever he had a "meet" with dealers or other street people.

As far as belt sheaths are concerned, perhaps the best on the market is the Gerber Mark I. Most belt sheaths hang too low from the belt and must be tied down to provide a quick one-hand draw. The Gerber Mark I boot dagger has a

sheath with a clip which can be attached to a belt as well as a boot. It works best on a 1½-inch belt; the clip goes over with no slack, so that the sheath does not move around during the draw. The Gerber sheath is as slick on the inside as on the outside to minimize blade drag. It has no leather above the snap to interfere with the draw. Its snap strap is similar to that on a Bianchi pistol holster; the thumb unsnaps the strap and the hand draws the knife all in one motion. This knife comes out instinctively in a "hatchet grip" for a quick thrust to a vital zone, though a better "sabre grip" should be used for a fight that will last more than

The Cooper "Natchez hat pin" dagger, a small push dagger in which the brass guard serves as the front of the handle.



The Puma "Bundeswehr" (German Army) knife, with metal scabbard taped to the John Ek shoulder rig. Although this blade shape will not penetrate as easily as a triangular or double-edged stiletto its point is practically indestructible.



one thrust. The Gerber Mark I, besides having the most modern sheath available (equivalent to the best quick-draw pistol holsters), has a 5-inch double-edged blade and a nonslip aluminum handle with double quillon. For concealed weapon use it is far more practical than the older military-style Mark II. The Mark I at \$32.50 is a bargain among boot knives, since equivalent quality is available only from a few benchmade knife makers at \$60 and up. Needless to say, the Mark I is difficult to obtain since the few currently available are snapped up as soon as they arrive at dealers.

If a belt knife has a sheath of conventional design it will hang too low below the jacket for concealability. In this case, a sheath knife can be stuck, sheath and all into the waist band, carried there temporarily. If action is imminent, the knife and sheath are pulled out, the sheath discarded or used as a guard in the left hand while the right hand grasps the knife handle.

The boot knife sheath may be attached to a boot in one of three ways. It may be sewn in, like the old Sykes-Fairbairn knife which had sew-on tabs on the sheath for this purpose. Sewing, unfortunately, has two drawbacks: 1) it leaves a telltale stitchmark on the outside of the boot, and 2) the sheath cannot easily be removed (for use in another pair of boots, for instance). The sheath may be clipped on, like the Cooper "hat pin" dagger or the Gerber Mark I. The clip should be of first quality to secure the sheath firmly, not some cheap "mexican holster" style clip. The third way to secure the sheath is with velcro, such as on the Morseth and Dennehy boot knives. Sewn to the back of the sheath is the "hook" part of the velcro, while cemented into the boot is the "wooly" part of the velcro; when pressed together they form a secure bond. Personally, I favor the clip for convenience. In an emergency, if the knife must be ditched the velcro arrangement is not only difficult to detach (while still wearing the boot), but it leaves a

continued on page 65

PACK FACTS

By Robert Himber

A good pack on your back can make the difference between arriving warmed-up and prepared for action or arriving fatigued and distracted. Whether your mission is business or pleasure, a well-engineered pack is a must. Those of us who have suffered with an inappropriate pack can tell you of the needless strain it causes.

For those of you who are not familiar with pack design, pack construction is fundamentally of three types: external frame, internal frame, and frameless. The external frame pack is fine for backpacking on low-angle terrain, but is likely to get you in trouble in hostile circumstances. An external frame is noisy, which may not be a problem if you are out camping with your wife, but it could be very undesirable if you are not among friends. Secondly, an external frame is generally made of aluminum or magnesium alloy, either of which may glare at an inconvenient time. Thirdly, an external frame pack never feels like it is part of you, but rather like you're wearing someone else's boots. I'm not condemning external frames out-of-hand, as I have owned quite a few of them and they have served me well. One particularly sturdy model I had was accidentally run over by a Land Rover in East Africa and remained serviceable for almost a year afterward.

Equipment used on an operation has to be versatile and tough enough to be useful, and it is here that the internal or frameless pack excels. There is no rattle or shine, and the pack feels like an old friend. Granted there is a transition period if you are used to an external frame, since internal frame packs have smaller, more flexible frames than external frame packs, which are an integrated part of the pack design. The frame usually consists of flexible stays that can be bent to conform to the wearer's back. The frameless pack, sometimes called a rucksack, has the longest history of any load carrier. The packsack is supported by a harness similar to an external frame or internal frame pack, but there is no frame of any kind.

Weight distribution is a primary concern of pack design. Too much load on

your shoulder can slow you down through lost energy. So, whatever pack you choose must have an adequate hip belt or waistband, and a quick-release buckle, which is mandatory for unexpected situations such as surprise parties by unfriendly folk.

Size is an obvious consideration, but should not be the first. I'd much rather have a well-designed, well-constructed pack of the wrong size than a poorly executed pack of the perfect size. For most purposes, there are three pack sizes worth consideration: day, mountaineering, and expedition. Only the purchaser can determine which size is best for a particular operation. But keep in mind that it is better to have a larger pack with room to spare, than to have a smaller pack with items lashed on. The advantage of the former is streamlining. In thick brush, a smooth pack of any size will surpass a small pack with strapped-on extras. A well-designed pack can be adjusted.

Compartmentalization is a question about which our great-grandchildren will be arguing. The answer is one of personal choice. Just as there is no ideal knife, there is also no ideal pack configuration. One school of thought is that compartments help organize items and thus save lost motion in poor light conditions. Since a flashlight is usually out of the question on a business trip, compartments may, indeed be useful. The other school of thought is that one large sack is the most versatile and thus, best. Individual stuffsacks can be used to segregate equipment, giving you organization plus the advantage of one cavernous pouch. Just as I have switched from an external to internal frame, I have also converted to the compartmentless sack. Again, although this works for me, it may not for you.

Some finer points of pack construction include:

Chest strap (holding padded shoulder straps together) with quick-release buckle, which makes a pack less likely to continue moving when you stop. Try bending over with a heavy pack to see what I mean.

Side straps or lashing on better packs can allow a pack to conform to a load that

is less than maximum. Laying the pack horizontally while loading, allows the side straps or lashing to be cinched tight, thus making the load less likely to shift or settle when the pack is donned.

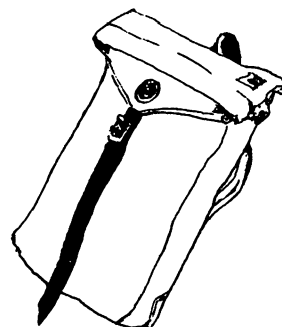
Leather is esthetic and wonderful for boots, but has no business on a pack. It is both heavier and weaker than nylon, and has the distinct disadvantage of absorbing water which adds to weight. The reason that some mountaineering packs still have leather bottoms, is that leather is more abrasion-resistant than canvas. (Canvas is what most packs were made of.) Vietnam taught us that leather must be maintained or it will rot quickly.

A **double bottom** on a pack is useful and does not add significantly to the weight. The bottom of any pack usually gets the most abrasion; therefore it makes sense to reinforce it.

Waterproof nylon is standard material used in packs that will undergo extreme conditions. Some diehards like the breathability of water-resistant fabrics, but these people are a minority.

Zipper closures on packs are usually a signal that the entire pack is poorly thought out. The fragility of zippers makes them unsuitable as pack closing devices. The old drawstring is still hard to beat. It ain't sophisticated, but is bomb-proof.

Above all, look for simplicity in pack design. Like anything else, a cluttered design with many features of dubious merit is more prone to malfunction than a clean, simple one.



TEST AND EVALUATION

LOWE ALPINE AND EXPEDITION PACKS

BY ROBERT HIMBER

Both of the above packs, manufactured by Lowe Alpine Systems (LAS), Boulder, Colorado, are excellent. They gave me the impression that someone at LAS read my thoughts on pack design and built a pack around them. Not that either pack is perfect. They're not. No pack is perfect for all contingencies, but they come close.

As the photos indicate, both packs are clean and simple. The sack is undivided for maximum versatility. There is a very shallow pocket running the width and breadth of the Alpine pack, located next to the wearer's back and meant to accept a piece of dense foam rubber providing a cushion against sharp objects. Shortly after receiving the Alpine pack, I took LAS's suggestion, and cut up an ancient foam pad and inserted it as recommended. While adding inconsequentially to the overall weight, the pad made the pack considerably more comfortable when carrying pointed objects.

At first this feature seemed superfluous, until I remembered my recent attempt on a rock face in nearby Rocky Mountain National Park, when because of hasty packing, some of my climbing hardware kept jabbing my shoulder blades. The LAS literature accompanying the Alpine pack states that if a piece of closed-cell foam is inserted in the pocket, it can

later be used as a cushion on frozen ground, a knee pad when canoeing, or a stove pad when snow camping. LAS has fully explored the design envelope of its equipment.

Both packs had nicely padded shoulder straps adjusted for size by ladder buckles on one inch flat nylon webbing. A piece of rubber or other non-slip material can be sewn to one of the straps to absorb recoil when firing a high powered rifle. A survival kit can be attached to one shoulder strap via a quick-release buckle so that it can be detached and retained in a dump-and-run situation. A chest strap connecting the shoulder straps is the key to both packs' suspension system. There exists a springtooth buckle that can be adjusted even with mittens on. The chest strap can be adjusted vertically to suit almost any preference and can be removed altogether on the Alpine model.

Both packs feature drawstring closures covered by flaps that have zipper pockets. Because the expedition model is larger than the Alpine, the zipper pocket is proportionately larger. However, both models have enough room in their zipper pockets for hastily needed items such as: hats, rain jackets, trail snacks, water bottles, or that extra length of piano wire. The coil zipper is made by the venerable

YKK firm that makes zippers for most sleeping bags, parkas, and tents. I wouldn't want to tow a car with one, but as zippers go, their's is one of the best.

Both pack models have accessory straps and ladder buckles located on the flap for lashing quickly needed items such as crampons or rain gear. While I appreciated the forethought by the manufacturer, I cut these straps off and carefully restitched the area with heavy nylon thread. It's been my experience that these straps did not add greatly to either pack's versatility. Quickly needed gear can be lashed to the small loops that are provided on the flap straps for this purpose.

Waist strap material for the Alpine is rugged two inch nylon webbing. Although unpadded, it is comfortable. It is attached to the full width of the pack by a large box stitch. The waist strap on the Expedition model is of the same construction, but it is padded with a three inch wide piece of dense foam rubber covered by nylon. Vertical bar tacking in three places secures the waist strap to the pack. The Expedition also has a padded area where the pack is likely to strike the bottom vertebrae of the spine. Both models' waist straps feature toothed buckles that are off-center to preclude the possibility that they'll gouge your stomach when you bend over.

Again, it is this attention to detail that endeared these packs to me. The buckles themselves will not be acceptable to those desiring a quick release system. The toothed buckle is simple and rugged, but it is not easy to use. True, the tail of the waist strap can be tucked back into the buckle to save time when removing the pack, but the system is still not smooth. A quick-release buckle similar to that used on the Kelty would be preferred. Adjustment straps and ladder buckles on each side of the waist strap allow the wearer to cinch the pack tightly to the back for increased stability.

Two straps on each side of the Alpine, and three straps on each side of the Expedition, adjust the packsack for varying load sizes. Even with a minimal load, the weight is held close to the back for best balance. There is no ballooning of the sack or settling of the load.

An ice axe loop on both models is located to keep the head of an axe off the



SOF Staffmembers test LAS packs in the field. Rifle on left is folding stock FAL; rifle on right is Armalite 180.

ground when the pack is set down. A strap is provided under the flap to receive the ice axe handle, but this too I removed. A side strap served the same purpose.

Other observations:

- All buckles are chrome plated which is bad for flash, but good for corrosion resistance. A matte finish could be applied quickly and easily with any good epoxy paint.

- The ends of the shoulder straps are doubled-over and sewn to prevent them from slipping through the buckles during adjustment under load. In a precarious position this is no small matter.

- The grommets for the drawstring are brass.

- A loop between the shoulder straps is provided for hanging the pack or hauling it when climbing technically.

- The drawstring has a plastic cord lock thus making knots unnecessary.

The sack is made of 11½ oz. Super K-Kote Cordura which is waterproof and almost bulletproof. The waterproofing is on the inside, so abrasion does not affect it. Cordura is a rip-stop fabric; that is if it should be torn or cut, it will not continue to tear even under stress.

The spindrift collar on the Expedition is also a valuable feature. It functions as its name implies: it keeps weather out of the top of an overstuffed pack. A bivouac sack can be special-ordered instead of spindrift collar; it is almost five feet long and will keep its owner dry in an emergency.

Both models accept accessory pockets for \$7.50 apiece. They hold about 260 cubic inches (a pair of binoculars, a rain jacket, and a small first aid kit), and can be worn separately as a hip pack. The YKK zipper on the accessory pocket has two sliders permitting access from either end. A storm flap covers the zipper to keep weather out. If the accessory pockets are made like the Alpine pack, they could be a valuable addition. I don't like anything that makes a pack wider than the person wearing it. In thick brush, a pack wider than its wearer is likely to impede the wearer's progress, especially if he is retreating hastily. If size isn't a problem, then consider the pockets useful.

One thing I would like to see the Lowe Brothers offer is a camouflage pack. Granted, their new all-black Expedition is excellent for night operations, but a camo option would be very welcome. For more information on LAS packs, write:

Phoenix Associates
Box 693
Boulder, CO. 80306

Editor's Note: On his recent trip to South Africa, SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown took three LAS Expedition Packs with him. He found them superior to conventional luggage in every way. The shoulder straps were re-



Chest strap on LAS Expedition model is easily adjusted with mittens on.

moved from the packs so that conveyor belts would not grind them to pieces. The packs proved strong, light and dependable.

Expedition Pack Specs:

Capacity: 4500 c.i.
Dimensions:
L.= 68 cm. (27 in.)
W.= 40 cm. (16 in.)
D.= 20 cm. (18 in.)
Weight: 1.98 kg. (4 lb., 6 oz.)
Price: \$78.00
Colors: Red, Blue, Navy, Green, Black

Alpine Pack Specs:

Capacity: 2600 c.i.
Dimensions:
L.= 56 cm. (22 in.)
W.= 33 cm (13 in.)
D.= 15 cm. (5¾ in.)
Weight: 1.2 kg. (2 lb., 11 oz.)
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Options: Side Pockets
Colors: Red, Blue, Navy, Green, Black



Author wears new black LAS Expedition Pack.



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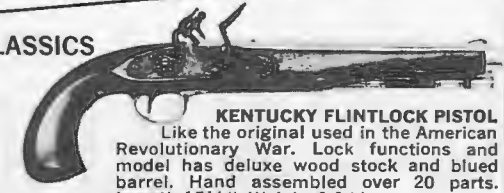
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BY BILL LIELL

A Senior Parachutist, the author attended the Basic AIRBORNE Course in 1950 at Ft. Benning, Georgia. He fought with Company A of the 187th Abn RCT in Korea and won a Bronze Star w/V device and a Purple Heart. He attended Ranger School and Officer Candidate School in 1955 and left the active Army in 1962 with the rank of Captain. Bill Liell has written numerous articles of a military nature, and has been published worldwide. He is presently editor of On The Beat, house organ for the Housing Patrolmen's Benevolent Association. Police Officer Liell is a graduate of St. Francis College.

The New York City Housing Authority Police Department is one of eight uniformed municipal, state and federal law enforcement agencies that perform routine duties within the five boroughs (counties) that comprise New York City. This 1,900 member force is the third largest police department in New York State. It provides police services to the 245,000 tenants in the 178 housing developments scattered throughout the metropolitan area. Police Departments regularly organize specialized units to meet certain needs. The Lower East Side Crime Control Unit was organized to combat what in law enforcement circles are called "crimes against the person," i.e., muggings, robberies, rapes, purse snatches, etc. This specialized unit functions geographically on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

The members have an esprit de corps that places them second to none in the country. Lieutenant Joe Amodeo, Sergeant Jerry Schmotzen and Police Officer Robert Wilson are all former Marines. Vinny Ingrate is a veteran of the 101st Airborne and John "Stinger" Polk hit the silk 26 times with the 82nd Airborne Division. Most of the members of the L.E.S.C.C.U. have maintained their military affiliations with either the National Guard or the Army Reserve. A more gung ho unit, outside of the spec-

ialized units in the active armed forces is impossible to find.

At the early part of this decade, crime was rampant in New York City. The "Major Crime Report" figures maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation showed criminal activities on the rise throughout the nation but especially in the large congested, northeast metropolitan areas. Throughout history, the Lower East Side of Manhattan has been a focal point of criminal activities. Name any infamous criminal in the annals of crime since Prohibition and he or she has probably functioned out of this area.

In November 1971, Inspector Richard T. Beckel, Commanding Officer of the Patrol Bureau, conceived the idea of a specialized unit to combat street crime in this area. Beleaguered tenants and community groups in the area daily called his office for relief from criminals who habitually prey on the old, destitute and helpless who have always occupied the Lower East Side.

Dick Beckel, (a veteran destroyer sailor) called in his top aides and planners and started to digest crime statistics in the area of operations. At that time, there were reported 633 robberies, 401 burglaries and 130 grand larcenies. Remember, many crimes are not reported to the police for various reasons, and these more glaring crime problems in three "Major Crime Report" areas were singled out for intensive police attention.

Members of the unit were hand-picked by top brass in the Housing Police Department and personally approved by Inspector Beckel. Some had unorthodox methods of operation but they had one mission: reduce crimes against the person in the Lower East Side. Lieutenant Amodeo had a free hand to organize the operation and tailor it to fit whatever personal concepts he had, but to get the job done! Sergeants Archie McCormick, Al Robinson and Jerry Schmotzer each commanded a tour of duty in the patrol area and Police Of-



Members of LESCCU outside their HQ; an innocent looking apartment in Columbia Housing.



This sort of rooftop stake-out in the Lower East Side often yields bountiful results; is usually undetectable.

ficer's Vito Chiramonte, Mickey Murphy, Tony DeMarzo, Harris Pitts and John Polk comprised the unit at that time.

their area of responsibility was eight major housing projects already manned by regular uniformed Housing Police and guards. The Lower East Side, for administrative purposes, is a subdivision in the Housing Police Department, but the unit functioned primarily in the 7th Precinct and sometimes extended itself to housing developments located in the 5th and 9th Precincts of the New York City Police Department.

The unit was expanded to its present strength in June 1972. By this time, the small elite unit had fallen on criminals and waged their own pattern of blitzkrieg. By the close of that year, robberies had fallen to 221, burglaries had been reduced to 98 and grand larcenies had decreased to 51! A spectacular record for a spectacular unit. Since its inception, less than a dozen housing cops have accounted for 30 gun collars and over 60 robbery arrests.

The Lower East Side Crime Control Unit has received numerous Letters of Commendation and praise from individuals, tenant organizations, the New York City Police Department, civic groups, political organizations, and community leaders from the surrounding neighborhood. Since the latter part of 1971, these few men have made over 1,149 collars, the biggest year being 1975 when 345 collars were made. Jesse Jackson was and still is, the "heaviest" collar man in this elite unit.

Five men were added to the Unit but the area of operations was dramatically increased from 8 major projects to 16, vast pocket (small two or three building)

developments and a few "turn-key" sites. Despite the tremendous increase in the area of responsibility, the Unit continued to hammer away at the three "Major Crime Report" areas, keeping always in the front of their mind their mission: to reduce crimes against the person. In the month of January 1976 alone, spectacular collars were made and perpetrators ran for cover. For example: Harris Pitts and Tony Nicoletti made a narco bust that netted not only 136 \$25. bags of heroin, but also six dealers. On the 28th of that same month, Nicoletti working with Robert Wilson, saw what they surmised was a "suspicious" looking car. They acted so fast that the driver never knew (and probably still doesn't know) what hit him. That "bust" took 4 handguns, one rifle and one sawed-off shotgun off the streets of the Lower East Side.

Vito Chiramonte and Tony DeMarzo arrested a fellow who was loitering in a housing authority building. When they questioned him, he had no good reason for being there. The cops smelled some-

thing fishy when they found a Transit Authority Locker key on the suspect. Vito detained the suspect, who by now was screaming his innocence of any wrongdoing. Tony grabbed a passing cab and sped to the Transit Authority subway station at nearby Union Square. He found the locker that the key fit, turned the key and lo and behold, 18 pounds of marijuana! We could go on, ad infinitum, but suffice it to say that these are only three of the January 1976 collars. At the close of 1975, robberies were down to 102, burglaries leveled off at 102 and grand larcenies dropped to an all time low of 42.

The Department of Justice (FBI) maintains crime records throughout the fifty states and U.S. possessions and trusteeships. They report a continual rise in the three areas of crime that we have delineated. Ten aggressive housing cops seem to produce enough excellent police work to offset crime report statistics in the Lower East Side.



Hold-up victim is interviewed at home by Detectives Tony De Marco and Vito Chinamonte (in hat). Crime busting out of the office and into the streets!



Typical park bench stake-out (near playground) by officer Jesse Jackson. Drug bust often result.



SOF INTERVIEW, PART II:

SIR ROBERT THOMPSON

“THE SOVIET THREAT TO THE U.S.”

Sir Robert Thompson, born in 1916, became one of the Western World's leading experts on guerrilla warfare, communist insurgency and counter-insurgency. Sir Robert graduated with honors from Cambridge University in 1937, joined the Malayan Civil Service in 1938, and then, in 1939, was called up for service in the Far East, as an R.A.F. Reservist. He escaped from Hong Kong to China in 1942 and subsequently served on both the 1943 and 1944 Wingate operations in Burma, which won him the Military Cross and the Distinguished Service Order. After World War II, Sir Robert returned to Malaya, where he remained as one of the architects of the Malayan victory over the communists, until after their independence in 1957. He held the post of Secretary for Defense until 1961, when he became head of the British Advisory Mission in Vietnam, where he advised not only successive Vietnamese governments and President Kennedy, but also later

acted as a consultant on the Vietnam war to then-President Nixon.

Sir Robert is the author of several books. His latest book, *Peace is Not at Hand*, (1975), follows the Vietnam war from 1969 until 1974 after the cease-fire, dealing with controversial issues in the press, while warning of strategic surrender by the U.S. (available from David McKay Publishers, Inc.).

Sir Robert is also one of the directors of *The Institute for the Study of Conflict*, which produces *Conflict Studies* that cover current regional, national and international struggles, terrorism, etc. Normally, ten such *Conflict Studies* are produced annually at a subscription rate of about \$20. In addition, there are special studies and annuals of power and conflict, such as the “*Soviet Analyst*,” a monthly report that gives up-to-date information on events inside Russia. (Concurrently, the biggest subscriber to the “*Soviet Analyst*” is the Chinese Embassy in London.)

Fortunately for SOF, Sir Robert visited Boulder, Colorado in June for three weeks where he presented a series of lectures to the Institute for the Study of Comparative Politics and Ideology. The Institute, presided over by University of Colorado professor Edward Rozek, draws a prestigious group of national and international experts who lecture on politics, foreign policy and international relations.

SOF was also fortunate in contacting an Institute student, Thomas McGregor, who agreed to interview Sir Robert.

McGregor, a Special Forces sergeant served in Vietnam from July 1967 to August 1968 running recon teams into Laos. In July 1967, his six man recon team, consisting of two Americans and four Montagnards ran into a NVA reinforced rifle company. In the ensuing fire-fight, McGregor was hit with a rifle grenade which eventually resulted in the loss of his right leg. He subsequently received the Silver Star



Burgeoning Soviet seapower is illustrated as a new Krivak class GM destroyer approaches the carrier HMS Ark Royal in home waters, the English Channel. More such destroyers are under production currently.

SOF: Sir Robert, what was the most important point to come out of U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia, as it affects international politics today?

SRT: I think that the first point to come out of the Vietnam War, a point that most of the citizenry of the world, both friend and foe alike, understood (if not understood by the American people) was that this was primarily a failure of American will. In 1973-74, as the ceasefire proved not to be a ceasefire, I noted that: "The American retreat before Moscow, like that of Napoleon, will litter the route with corpses." Unfortunately, this has proven to be correct. In the one year since the end of the war, more people have died in that area than during the whole course of the 15-year war. (This includes a combined figure, adding both the North and the South Vietnamese losses during the war, for comparison.)

SOF: Isn't this a rather high estimate, Sir Robert?

SRT: This is not an exaggeration, and there is more to come.

SOF: What do you mean "more to come"?

SRT: The moment they (North Vietnamese) bring their collectivization policy in South Vietnam, against the peasantry with their four or five acres, the purges will have to start, as during the peasant resistance to collectivism in the North in 1956.

SOF: What effect is "failure" of American will having on the various governments in that area?

SRT: What is happening generally in Southeast Asia now, is of course, a very drastic realignment. The first thing that happened, post-Vietnam, was that everyone jumped into aircrafts and flew off to Peking, in order to try to "mend their fences," at least with the Peoples' Republic of China. What we are going to see, at least in Southeast Asia, is a tremendous rivalry between the two great powers of Russia and China.

SOF: Could you explain your opinion as to the nature and importance of the Domino Theory in East/West relations?

SRT: I must stress that the Domino Theory is not a straight, mechanical matter of one domino knocking down the next. I think that we must look at it in general terms in a more appropriate analogy, probably as a chessboard where you cannot make a move on one side of the board without it affecting the play on the whole of the board. The reason that the Domino Theory is "discredited," is that it is a very uncomfortable theory. I have yet to actually read anything that discredited it, but whenever it is put in the news or printed by the press, it is always preceded with the word discredited.

SOF: How would you "test" the validity of this theory?

SRT: Well, all I can add to this is that if you want to know the truth, go ask the dominos. **Not one of them regards it as being discredited!**

SOF: What country will be the first domino to be affected by the withdrawal of the U.S. presence in Southeast Asia?

SRT: The probable first domino in that area will be Thailand, after Cambodia and Laos. This will be a long process. Now, don't let us look at the "dominos" as confined just to this area. I remember saying to a friend of mine late in 1972, that the Jews in the United States didn't understand that Israel would be the next domino. Well, we all know what happened in 1973. But the point here is that Israel is a very reluctant domino.

Now we are having other dominos, and don't make any mistake that these are not dominos: Angola, Mozambique, Lebanon, and so on. **If you had been successful in Vietnam, do you imagine that these things would be happening as they are happening now? In my view, quite definitely not!**

SOF: What other areas should be important to the United States' foreign policy makers?

SRT: The United States' commitment to Korea and Taiwan must be absolute. In Korea, the present situation is governed by the 1953 ceasefire agreement which is signed only by the United Nations Command on one side, and North Korea and the People's Guard on

the other. Any question of doing away with the United Nations Command could have a serious impact on this ceasefire.

SOF: There has been, lately, increasing pressure to reduce or withdraw the American forces currently stationed in Korea. What would be the effect of such a move by the United States?

SRT: Any withdrawing of U.S. forces from Korea is a strategy of invitation rather than a strategy of deterrence.

SOF: Will our "failure of will" in Southeast Asia effect our improved relations with the People's Republic of China?

SRT: China is interested in its own survival first, and is temporarily allied with the United States. But the U.S. must retain its credibility, if this alliance is to be beneficial and lasting. Otherwise, there will be a shift back to monolithic communism, controlled and directed by Russia, not the current situation of polycentric communism with split leadership between Russia and China.

SOF: Concerning United States' credibility in the post Vietnam years, could you give a few examples of what you mean by credibility and its effects on international relations?

SRT: One of the first examples of United States' credibility that comes to mind, and one which I know well, was the Berlin Crisis — Berlin, right in the heart of Russian-held territory. Truman, against the advice of his political and military advisers, who thought that it would be much too risky, asked, if we have the right to be in Berlin, legally? Answer: Yes — go!

What did Russia do? Nothing. Why? Because the United States was entirely credible at the moment.

SOF: Besides Vietnam, can you give some historic examples of what happens when the United States lacks this "credibility."

SRT: Prior to Vietnam, there were two major examples of the United States' lacking in credibility. First, there was Korea: Dean Acheson, about six months before the war started, said that Korea was of no strategic interest to the United States. Immediately, Russia started increasing the size of the North Korean forces. A few weeks before, he made another talk on the subject, adding that the Chiefs of Staff regarded it as militarily untenable, anyway. Result — War.

Another clear example is the Cuban Missile Crisis. Kennedy was elected President in 1960. He suffered the unfortunate mishap of the Bay of Pigs. He then had a summit meeting with Khrushchev in Vienna in 1961, where, I regret to say, the President discussed philosophy when Khrushchev was solely interested in power. To Khrushchev, therefore, Kennedy was not credible. Result — The Missile Crisis.

In the last year of the Eisenhower

Administration, Vice President Nixon visited Moscow. At that time, he was a presidential candidate, and had what was called "The Kitchen Debate" with Khrushchev, in which he made it very clear where the United States stood or would stand, if he was elected President. Question: Would Khrushchev have put missiles in Cuba if Nixon had been President? Not on your nilly, he wouldn't. And that is, I think, the prime example of credibility.

Now, it was fortunate that when it happened that Kennedy stood firm. But we paid a price, in that American missiles came out of Turkey, American missiles came out of Italy, and Khrushchev secured his primary aim: the safeguarding of the revolution in Cuba, as the President had to give a guarantee that he would not attack Cuba. Now, there is, I think, the prime example of the lack of credibility. You might say, in some ways, that it is well that the Cuban Missile Crisis did occur, because it woke a lot of us up. However, it never should have happened. Now, you go to the Vietnam situation in 1975 — were you credible? Answer — NO. Result: complete breach of the ceasefire agreement, and another massive North Vietnamese invasion.

And the point here that I'm making and the law which I want to stress (which is being broken), is that credibility leads to peace; you do not get the confrontation; lack of credibility leads to war and violence. The law is this: **the greater the credibility, the less the cost and the less the risk.**

SOF: What do you mean by credibility?

SRT: I think that it is really an addition of capability. In other words, you've got the means and it's capability in all terms, not just weaponry, manpower, and so on, but economic power, everything else and the perceived intention of your adversaries. Will you, might you, or won't you, **do anything?** If it is "will" you do anything, he perceives that you are credible, even if it is "might," even if you are unpredictable, at least that is something. But when it is perceived as "won't," then, of course, credibility collapses.

SOF: Credibility seems to depend primarily on power. Could you define your conception of "power" in this context?

SRT: Very roughly, power is manpower plus applied resources multiplied by will, and will is no more than a factor of one; if will is naught, power is naught. I think that this is something that the Russians understand very well.

SOF: Could you make a few comparisons between Russian and United States' power?

SRT: It is interesting to see the comparisons here between Russia and the United States: Russia first, and the United States second. Population: 250 million to 213 million; Armed forces: 3.5 million to just over 2 million; Reserves: 3 million to under 1 million. In other words, the

total here is 6.5 million for Russia and 3 million for the United States.

SOF: How does the defensive budget of these two powers compare?

SRT: Budget? About 100 billion each, but this is not something that someone can easily settle, because putting it in dollar terms as against ruble terms doesn't mean the same thing on the expenditure inside Russia and the expenditure in the United States.

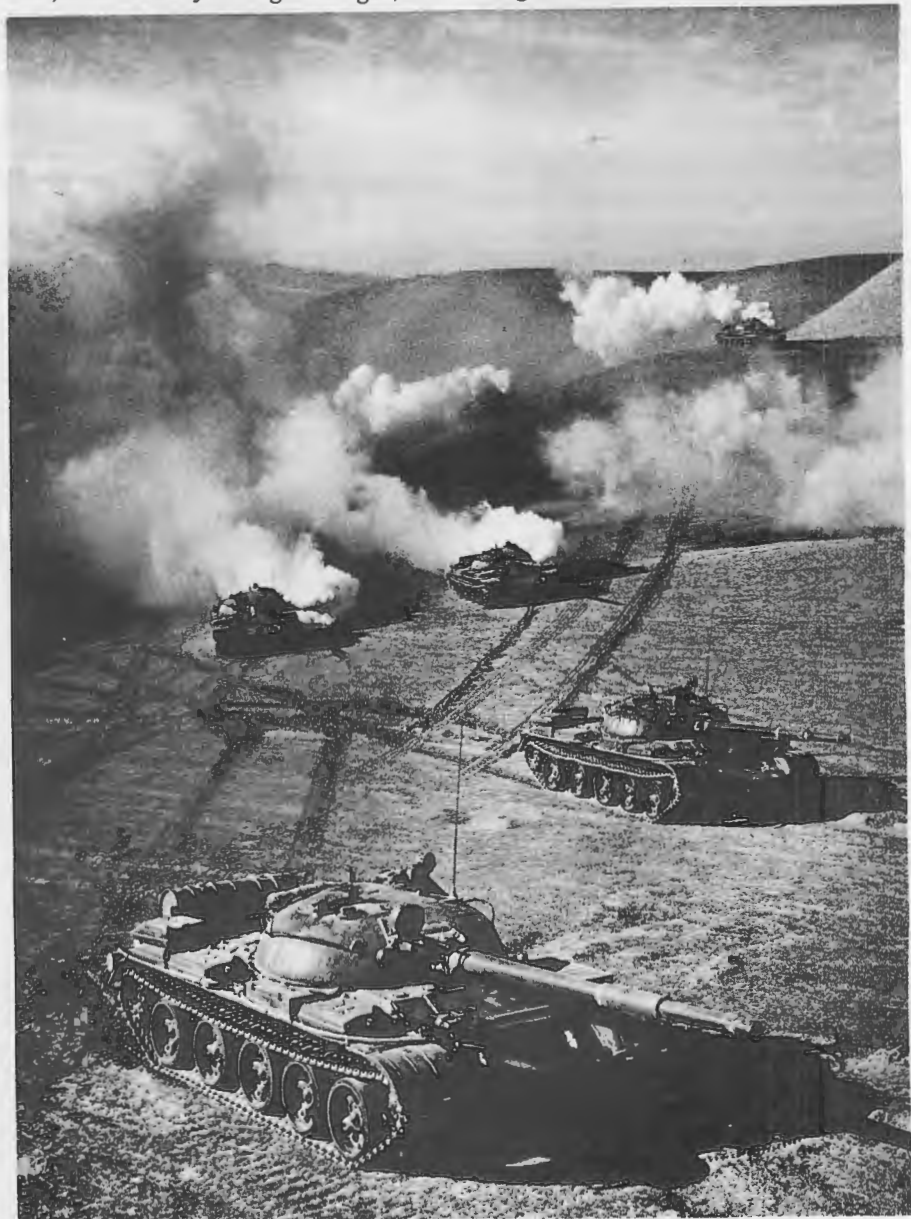
There are two interesting points in this: one, for example, is the 100 billion to the Russians, which is a great deal more as far as GNP is concerned, than it is as far as the United States is concerned. In fact, the estimate is that this is 18 to 20% of Russian GNP, which means that Russia is pretty well on a war footing. The other interesting point about these defense budgets is the ratio of costs. The Russian ratio of costs: manpower 40%, weaponry and weaponry development 60%; because of your higher wages, in

the American defense budget, only 40% is going into weaponry and weaponry development.

SOF: What about nuclear strength? How do these two powers compare in this area?

SRT: Well, in submarines launched, they have 720 missiles and 70 submarines to your 656 missiles and 41 submarines; ICBM's, they have 1575 and you have 1054. If you add those together, you get roughly 2300 Soviet Union to 1700 U.S. Both of you have MIRV's, which means that this doesn't entirely represent the warheads; the warheads are more than that, because there are many missiles that carry three or more.

SOF: What is the significance of these figures? It would seem that both the United States and Russia have over-kill capacity when it comes to nuclear strength.



As the new T-64 battle tank replaces the T-62, Soviet armor may be the most advanced anywhere.

SRT: Now, the point here is, of course, that you both have over-kill. And so whatever the situation may be, you have enough. In other words, you wouldn't want to argue about parity, superiority, and so on; the real question is throw weight. One very, very significant factor is that the Russian throw weight is approximately five times more than the U.S. They have much heavier missiles, and the general estimate is that the U.S. throw weight is 1 to 2 million pounds, whereas the Russian throw weight is 10 to 12 million pounds. But more significantly, they are ahead of you in submarines launched. They have produced Delta Class submarines of which, I think, they have at least four or five right now. These vessels carry a missile with a range of 4,700 miles, which means they can hit the U.S. from way back in the Baltic. They don't have to be in the middle of the Atlantic in order to do it. You will not match that until the Trident submarine comes out, at the earliest, in 1978. They are also producing a supersonic heavy bomber which is equivalent to your B-1, which you have not yet decided to produce. **And here I do want to make a point — A very strong one. Write your congressman like mad on the subject. You have now produced a thing called the Cruise missile. It is far ahead of the Russians' technology, and I don't think they can compete with it for at least ten years.**

SOF: Why is this weapon so important to our defense capability?

SRT: It is a superb and absolutely incredible little weapon. It only weighs about 2,000 pounds, it only has a range of about 2,000 miles; it only flies 700 miles per hour, which doesn't seem very fast, but it does that at about 200 feet above the ground, so that it is well below all radar. It is accurate to within 30 yards, and the main thing about it is that it can be fired from any platform. It is a type of missile that is easily deployable and quite uncountable, and there is no sort of defense against numbers of them; there is no type of defense that could stop it. It could carry either a conventional or nuclear warhead.

So, if anyone starts to barter that away, write to your congressman immediately, because this puts you right in the front line again.

SOF: Would you say then, that deterrence as a matter of strategy has worked?

SRT: It doesn't matter what formulation of nuclear strategy one uses, but as long as neither side has an absolute first-strike capability, nuclear deterrence has worked. But, below the nuclear level, deterrence has not worked.

SOF: Could you be specific?

SRT: Mr. McNamara, ten years ago, said, "We and our allies will require substantial non-nuclear forces to cope with levels of aggression that massive strategic forces do not, in fact deter." This has been a difficult lesson to learn, and yet it has been learned. As Mr. Schleisinger just recently said, "Deterrence will be strongly reinforced if there is a balance in conventional, as well as nuclear forces. **This strong conventional capability is essential, not because we wish to wage conventional war, but because we do not wish to wage any war.**"

SOF: So, if deterrence is to work, it must be at all levels of possible confrontation. How do Russia and the United States compare in conventional forces?

SRT: Here the disparity is much more marked than in the nuclear forces. Again, I will quickly run through comparisons of conventional power. Russian Divisions: 167; I think you can say that roughly 50 are kept in a state of absolute readiness, 50 would take a week to prepare, and the rest would take a month. But within that period of a month, Russia could have 167 divisions in the field. Many of these are mechanized; seven are airborne. The United States has: 16 Divisions; 13 Army and 3 Marine, plus one or two independent brigades in Panama and Berlin. Surface Ships: Russia 221, U.S. 177. Submarines: Russia 245 diesel, 70 Nuclear (Actually, I am giving you figures here that are probably a year out of date.) United States: 73 normal diesel and 61 nuclear.

SRT: The Russian Navy is an offensive Navy. It doesn't have to defend a Russian mercantile Marine using the seas of the world to any great extent. Your Navy

is a defensive Navy, because you are a maritime power and you have to have control of the seas, particularly over the Atlantic and the Pacific. And here is the reason why you cannot always say that forces like these match merely on the strength of equal numbers. You are in the defensive role on the seas, whereas the Russians are in position where they can conduct an offensive role. **For example, right now, at this minute, they have more submarines than Hitler had at the height of World War II.**

SOF: Sir Robert, we've been looking at one aspect of power: the hard material facts of manpower and applied resources. What about will? For as you said, if will is naught, power is naught.

SRT: Now, I am not going to say that Russian will is 100 percent, even in respect to its closest allies. But if you would like to regard will rather like temperature and work from zero to 100 percent, the Russian will, as far as its allies are concerned, is certainly in the high 80's and 90's. Now, what is American will with respect to its allies and its friends? A Harris poll a year or so ago measured the percentage of Americans willing to go to war to defend its allies. The results indicated only 34 percent would support Berlin, 39 percent Europe, and 77 percent Canada. In short, Russian will, with respect to its allies, is clearly much higher than your will with respect to your allies. But if your will, with respect to Europe, is 39 percent, the question remains: is the Russian will with respect to Europe higher than 39 percent? Here we're not talking of Russian allies, we're talking about possible Russian victims. And with regard to the allied/victim situation, go back to, say, Vietnam. Here the Russian will with respect to the victim, was higher than your will with respect to an ally. And the point is: How does that will operate, because this reduces or increases power on either side. Here, I think Russia has been able to establish a very firm ground rule: Russian friends and allies are off limits; those of the United States are fair game. In other words: What's mine is mine; what's yours is up for grabs. Here, we come back to what I was saying earlier about the strategic initiative: who holds the initiative, who has the secure base, who is absolutely credible in regard to its friends and allies (thereby giving it this secure base), and therefore, is in a position to choose when and where to strike. The moment Russia can see that your will is low with regard to a particular victim, ok, that's where they will strike. This puts Russia and its friends in the position of "can win, can't lose," "Can't lose" means that they can fail the first time, but it is not an absolute defeat. They will have merely failed; they will try again! Russian friends and allies in any state, therefore, have to win only once. Your friends and allies only have to fail once, and they have lost forever.



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THE SILENT KILLERS

Blowguns are an inexpensive and challenging weapon for hunting—
man or beast.

BY J.I. GALAN



Standing position, frequently used in hunting small game, demonstrated correctly.

The last few years have seen an amazing volume of literature written about silencers for virtually all types of firearms, which indicates that there are enough people out there who are deeply interested in silenced weapons and are willing to buy almost any information published on silencers and their uses.

Most authors and experts on silencers, are quick to point out that there is no such thing as a true "silenced" firearm, since there is always noise present in one form or another, even when the report of the initial explosion is successfully muffled. Ballistic crack, for instance (when supersonic bullets are involved), is one source of noise that can be eliminated only at the cost of decreased ballistic efficiency. Mechanical noise is just about impossible to eliminate in self-loading weapons. So, the search and research goes on and on for better and deadlier silenced weapons. In Europe, it now appears that some designers are reverting to the idea of guns firing darts, both with and without poison. This method still leaves the initial propelling of the dart up to a powder charge, however. Air guns can naturally be used, but even the quietest models, belonging to the spring-piston powered group make some noise both during loading and upon discharge. Taking the air gun principle

one further step backward, we come to the doorstep of the quietest weapon of them all: the blowgun.

What the blowgun lacks in sheer brute force is more than made up in its unailing ability to deliver a deadly dart to an unsuspecting target, in complete silence. The most important thing to remember about blowguns is that their effective range is far more limited than that of firearms. Range is determined by the user's lung power. As with any weapon that shoots a projectile, practice is called for in order to improve marksmanship. Regular practice with the blowgun also increases the volume of air that the user is capable of expelling with each blow, along with the range of the dart and its velocity. It must be remembered that there are indeed few individuals who can generate more than 2 p.s.i. of pressure with one blow of air. However, that meager level of pressure is still more than adequate to propel a dart from a blowgun. It is important that the amount of air blown out be consistent. With blowguns, it is the quality rather than the quantity of air being blown down the tube that is important.

It is possible to hit a 3" diameter target at 20 yards, consistently, with a few weeks of regular practice. That still isn't so hot when compared to the astounding feats credited to the Jivaro Indians of the Amazon region. It has been reported that Jivaro **children** are capable of killing small birds at 25 yards, using clay balls in their training blowguns. Upon reaching manhood, the Jivaro graduate to blowguns measuring over 8 ft. in length and their clay projectiles give way to needle-thin eight or nine inch long pith darts, tipped with deadly Curare.

The history of the blowgun is rather cloudy. There is some evidence that indicates that blowguns were used in Central Europe, long before many primitive peoples generally believed to have "invented" them ever blew their first projectile out of a tube. Indeed, there are some illustrations in books and frescoes dating back to Medieval times, in which blowguns are clearly and unmistakably portrayed. In our own hemisphere, the Iroquois, Cherokee, and Aztec Indians, to name a few, were known to use blowguns for hunting. The Cherokee Indians still use blowguns regularly for hunting small game. Their blowguns reach 9 ft. in length and their darts are approximately 21 inches long. It is also very probable

that in the case of the Aztecs blowguns may have been used with gusto against the Conquistadores and their horses. Blowguns were also in widespread use in some areas of Asia, such as Japan, Malaysia, and Indochina. The mystery remains, however, as to how, where, and when, the blowgun first appeared.

The blowgun is remarkably well-suited to covert and GW-type operations. Eldon G. Wolff, in his scholarly book, *Air Guns*, states (p. 35): "The blowgun was an important weapon in ancient times. It was rarely employed in open battle, but was effective in the defense of villages and for sniping from ambush." The main advantage that the blowgun has over more "conventional" GW weapons is its total silence, plus the fact that it is far less conspicuous than any other weapon that shoots or throws a projectile. In short, blowguns are inherently "sanitized" weapons. This still applies in the case of commercially available blowguns.

The steel darts supplied with commercially produced blowguns generally vary in length from 4" to 5½" and, invariably, they achieve almost 100% penetration in flesh at up to 25 or 30 yards. If a fast-acting, highly virulent poison, such as Curare, is added to the dart, the simple blowgun becomes one of the deadliest silent zappers anywhere.



Good groupings are possible from intermediate range as shown with rabbit silhouette (5½ x 38 cal. blow gun).

Curare is usually extracted from the Wourali vine, belonging to the genus *Strychnos toxifera*, and is indigenous to equatorial South American regions. The poison is extremely deadly when administered through the skin, as it mixes almost instantly with the blood. Curare paralyzes the motor nerves, with the unfortunate victim dying from asphyxia. The venom of certain snakes can be utilized effectively in high concentration, although these animal poisons aren't generally as fast-acting as Curare. The ultimate approach along this line of thought appears to be in the use of hollow darts carrying a small amount of hydrocyanic acid. This is probably the fastest-acting poison that would apply to blowguns, as life termination would occur in less than 10 seconds after the dart strikes the victim.

The late W. H. B. Smith in his book, **Gas, Air and Spring Guns of the World**, states that German agents operating in neutral zones during WWII, habitually carried dummy cigarettes loaded with the darts that had been treated with Curare. Mr. Smith goes on to say that those agents worked for the famous SS Col. Otto Skorzeny, "the most dangerous man in Europe," as he was dubbed towards the end of the war by the Allies. I don't doubt the first part of Mr. Smith's assertion about the German agents. I tend to doubt the second part — that continued on page 74



Upper R: Proper loading procedure. Center: Blowguns are well suited to guerrilla-type ops, especially in jungle terrain. Lower R: Rabbit killed instantly from 19 meters with .63 cal. 4" dart. Below: Assortment of available darts.





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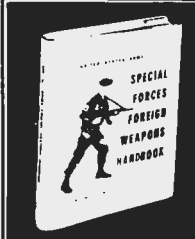


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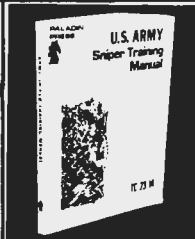


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continued from page 13

SOF: What are their motives?

LAMPRECHT: There are wide variety, but I'm not prepared to go into specifics.

SOF: When I was here in May 1974, only three or four Americans were serving with the Rhodesian security forces. The press speculates that between 250 and 400 Americans are serving Rhodesia. To what do you attribute this increase?

LAMPRECHT: A number of factors. First, Americans serving with us correspond with their friends in the U.S. This type of "word-of-mouth" recruiting is the best form of recruitment. Secondly, we are receiving considerable publicity worldwide and this has found us many friends, some of whom are prepared to come and fight with us. Thirdly, some of our friends abroad, while not capable of joining us, have stimulated interest in the Rhodesian Army.

SOF: How do you eliminate the phonies, the incompetents, the insincere?

LAMPRECHT: We are able to weed out a large number of those by analyzing the contents of their query letters. Many are obviously nuts. However, if a person appears to be sincere, we send him a recruiting packet. If he is still interested, he will complete and return the application forms together with supporting documents which include proof of previous service, military proficiency, testimonials from previous employers and/or superior officers and a medical examination re-

port. Unfortunately, I cannot interview volunteers prior to their arrival. If an applicant appears to be acceptable, I forward a formal written offer. It is then up to him to accept or reject it.

SOF: Do you at that time make an offer on rank and pay?

LAMPRECHT: Yes.

SOF: What is the next step?

LAMPRECHT: The volunteer is given a date to report for duty. He is instructed to travel at his own expense to Rhodesia. He must fulfill normal immigration requirements and must apply for a Rhodesian resident permit — NOT citizenship. When he reports, he is duly enlisted and his travel expenses are refunded.

SOF: What if a volunteer does not have sufficient funds to travel to Rhodesia?

LAMPRECHT: We can make alternative arrangements.

SOF: How long does it take to approve an application?

LAMPRECHT: This depends often on the efficiency of the postal system.

SOF: Is there any advantage to calling you direct?

LAMPRECHT: No. I process all applications as rapidly as possible. Generally it takes about seven days from the time I receive a completed application until I forward a reply, depending upon the number of applications I have to process.

SOF: What is your policy in regards to applicants with criminal records?

LAMPRECHT: We accept NO individuals

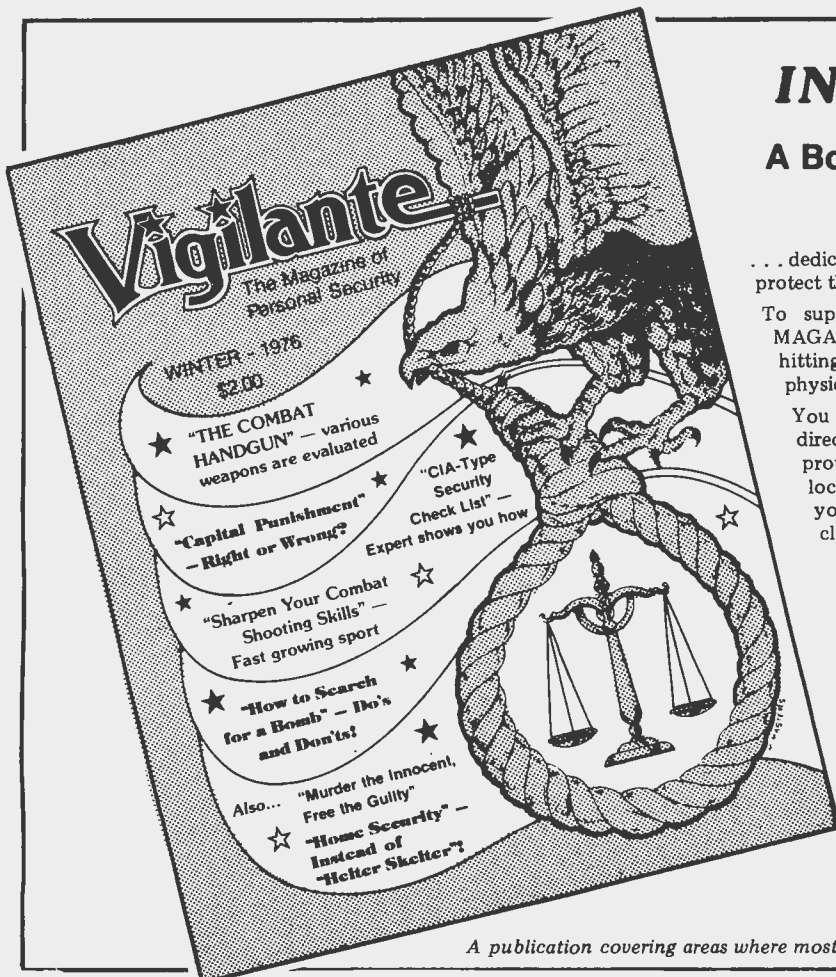
with criminal records. If an offense is petty and occurs when an individual is a juvenile, we may overlook it. If there is any doubt, I refer the case up the chain of command.

SOF: What problems do volunteers face when they join the Rhodesian Army?

LAMPRECHT: Many men who come from different parts of the world are used to a different climate, large cities with all the amenities. However, we feel Rhodesia has many things to offer such as; good Rhodesian beer, a friendly populace, and what I would describe as a free and easy, unhurried way of life, lots of wide open spaces. What we may lack in the way of night life we compensate for in the form of outdoor entertainment.

SOF: Any other comments regarding what action an interested individual might take to get his application approved?

LAMPRECHT: I give serious consideration to the man who goes to the trouble to get notarized copies of necessary documents. Also, a statement from a local law enforcement agency stating the individual has no record of connections carries weight.



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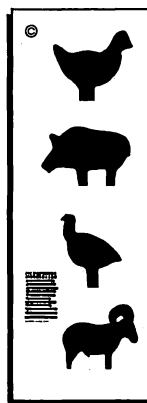
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continued from page 7

Dear Sirs,

I saw your first issue last year at a Army Reserve meeting. It was one of the few times the whole battalion was together and one of the troopers from another company had a copy of the magazine. From what I saw of it, I immediately sent in a subscription. Since then, several more members of my unit have also sent in subscriptions after looking at my copies.

I was interested in your article on RT Tennessee, (Spring 1976 issue). I spent almost 9 years active most of them with Special Forces. My last trip to RVN was with C&C. I arrived in-country in Oct. 1969. At that time there were three FOBs, CCN at DaNang, CCC at Kontum, and CCS at Ban Me Thout. I was with CCC.

What was somewhat unique about C&C was that you started at the bottom and worked your way up, no matter what your rank. This was because recon is a different type of mission than most of the SF troopers were used to. Many had been over before with MIKE (Mobile Strike) Force with companies and battalions of CIDG. I served on three different Recon Teams (RT) as I worked my way up.

When I finally commanded my own team, I was a SSG with a 1LT as my second in command. This wasn't all that unusual. Department of the Army didn't particularly care for officers to be in SF to begin with and especially in command of a Recon Team. The officer had to be real gung-ho to want it and not get his ticket properly punched. I know something about that as I received a direct commission at FOB 2 and served 3 years as an officer before I got the boot. Too much time in Special Forces!

A few facts about the mercenaries that worked for us. The Nungs mentioned as being on RT Tennessee were some of the best. The Nungs were originally from the N. Vietnam-China border area. They served as mercenaries for the French and many had come south in 1954. They were some of the first troops recruited by SF in the early 60's. Later on, due to attrition, many Chinese from the Cholon district of Saigon were recruited as fillers. Their quality and professionalism was nowhere like the originals.

Most of the RT's were recruited from Montagnards in the local area. In CCN they were usually Bru. At CCC, because we were centrally located, we had quite a mixture Bahnar, Sedang from Kontom

north to Dak Pek. We had Jurai from the Pleiku area. The team I commanded was mostly Rhade from the area around Ban Me Thout. They originally came from CCS.

The pictures were taken in May 1971, a couple of months before I turned over my team and DEROSed.

That is one of the other rather unique features of C&C. We carried about any weapon we could get our hands on. We wanted the Stoner 63A light machine gun for fire suppression when we broke contact, we settled instead for a sawed-off RPD. Very effective for keeping their heads down as we ran the other way. And, occasionally when we did get in a real pissing contest, it came in real handy.

The size of the teams ran from the conventional 6 man team up to a 15 man "Spike" team with their own hand-held 60mm mortar. C&C was quite an experience for me in many ways. I believe I served with some of the best fighting men anywhere, both U.S. and indigenous.

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continued on page 70



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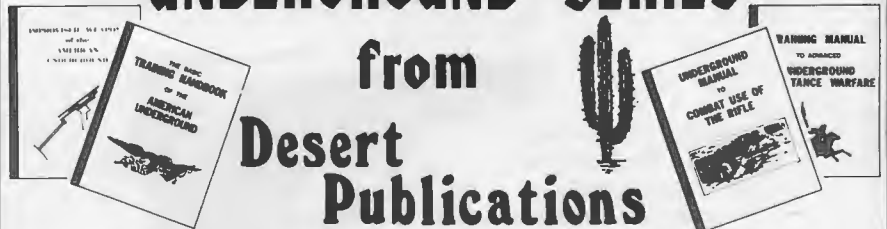
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Six USRT divers went to the scene. After getting all the information they decided on a search pattern and a probable location of the body. Within a half hour they located it. An important point is that they politely refused the help of the volunteer divers once team members began the search. "We don't use outsiders," says Giannotti. "We don't know how they're going to react. I'm not going to risk my men's lives."

The chopper pilot's body and then helped to raise the craft. Many members of the team consider this to be their most memorable dive in their short history, mainly because of the weather conditions.

They are centralized, organized, and each man is trained and equipped. He knows what to expect and what's expected of him. Nothing is left to chance. The successful completion of an assignment in the least amount of time is the team's goal. "You're in the water fast and out quickly while doing a professional job," says Giannotti, describing the way he likes to do business. He remembers a drowning in a small suburban town. Volunteer divers spent the better part of a day searching for a suicide victim in a river. It became a circus and finally the NHPD-USRT was asked to assist.

During the nation's bicentennial observance, the Queen of England transferred from her Royal Yacht to an Air Force plane waiting at New Haven Airport. Plans called for her to leave the Yacht by Royal Barge for a dock where a motorcade would take her to the airport via the downtown area while being guarded by Secret Service agents.

As helicopters buzzed overhead and thousands of sightseers pushed to the water's edge to get a glimpse of the Queen, USRT divers were standing by. Earlier they had searched for a bomb; now they kept a watchful underwater eye for anything suspicious.

Intelligence reports indicated that an attempt might be made on her life. At one point there was fear that a surface to surface missile might be used in an attack. Another more real possibility was a bomb attached to the pilings of the dock she would use. The USRT assisted two Navy ordnance divers assigned. They worked in what has been called the world's worst visibility waters. With about four feet visibility that day, better than usual, they considered themselves lucky.

After determining the kill and scare areas, they searched each piling, checking for anything odd or unusual that might be an explosive device. They weren't going to be caught with their SCUBA pants down. The Queen's brief

visit came off without a hitch. This was unusual but really just another operation to team members.

As Giannotti puts it, "We have the men to do the job and the men to stand up and give the orders." They are a model team for other PD's wishing to set-up their own diving unit so they are definitely doing everything right. Each man is always ready and eager to go. When he hears the code to activate the team he moves. He's ready to do a hazardous job quickly and professionally in the shortest possible time. Isn't that what it's all about?

The NHPD is well equipped. A 50 foot police launch is used for most of the searches in Long Island sound. They have a small trailer towed boat and equipment carried in a compartmentalized van type truck for inland river and lake searches.

The team's equipment consists of ten 100 cubic foot tanks, and ten 72 cubic foot tanks all equipped with J-valves. All divers must wear buoyancy control vests. Some of the better ones used by the team cost \$200 and have a three minute air reserve built in. They use a variety of different regulators, mostly made by Nemrod. Half the diving gear is carried in the boat and the other half is in the van.

They have a variety of special gear to use on special missions. A diving plane board that's towed behind a boat works like the elevator on an airplane. Used with a set of hydro-phones that allows the diver to talk with the man aboard the boat, it's useful for channel or river surveillance. Lift bags with 500 and 4000 pound lift capacity are used to raise large objects. They are inflated with a SCUBA tank. Both underwater and surface flares are used to pin-point the search objective when it's found.

An underwater camera is used for photographing evidence before its recovery. This helps maintain the chain of continuity of evidence in court. The "Silvro" camera is manufactured by Nemrod and has a flash attachment.

Other equipment includes a variety of underwater lights, special hatchets with pry bar and hammer ends, a rescue regulator with two mouthpieces and a pressure gauge, and leg worn diving knives. Most of the equipment is Nemrod brand since the factory is located in New Haven. The company has donated some equipment to the team.

The divers use complete wet suit outfits. Some are lined with a material that allows them to be donned in a hurry. In summer, five finger wet-suit gloves are used. In winter, a mitten type is used. Each diver has a personal bag that contains fins, mask, snorkel, towel and soap, and extra clothes.

The police boat, Marine Unit One, is outfitted with a complete array of electronic equipment. Radios include regular AM-FM, four channel UHF police radio,

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Citizens Band radio (for monitoring channel nine used by CB equipped boaters in distress) and VHF and HF marine radios. Also, a depth finder with 200 foot capacity is helpful in locating submerged autos and planes when used with navigation charts showing the water depth. An electronic siren/hailer rounds out the compliment of electronic gear.

The usual accessories are also carried. Binoculars, searchlights, 110 volt generators, and a shot-gun are carried. Lockers hold the SCUBA gear in readiness. The boat has a full galley for feeding divers on extended missions, and for the warm cup of coffee when team members get together off duty to shoot the breeze.

The divers themselves are the key element. They are highly trained and must attain National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI) certification. Department training includes PT and five miles of jogging before a pool session. The department has 480 patrolmen. When the team was formed some 80 men tried out. After screening for weak swimmers, health and ear, nose, and throat problems, 20 men remained.

After normal SCUBA training that stressed ditching and donning and fast entry into the water, they went on to specialized training. This included theory of search patterns, hand signals, adjustment to low visibility and night diving, buddy breathing, underwater rescue techniques, use of hatchets, bolt cutters, and pry bars, and the SCUBA carry for

assisting victims. Underwater navigation by compass, first aid, and underwater mouth to mouth resuscitation were covered. This is all in addition to frequent practice dives in the sound, rivers, and lakes.

One such recent practice found the men doing a night dive. It was mainly an orientation dive for those who had never dived at night in New Haven's normally murky Long Island Sound. On the way out through the channel with Giannotti at the controls of Marine One, the men suited up in the ship's cabin. All wore full wet suits in the relatively mild 50 degree water. After a briefing by Leavitt, they donned their equipment on the aftdeck. Once over the side and in the water, they would pair up.

Aboard the Marine One, Giannotti and assistant dive master Rich Poulton would serve as back-up. They kept spotlights trained out over the water so the boat could be spotted instantly by the surfacing divers. Leavitt and one of the less experienced divers went the length of the anchor chain and then swam to the break-water rocks. They met the others there. Though this particular dive had no target objective, the men gained valuable night-time diving experience.

Speed was the objective in a drill held a while back. A mannequin was hidden in the waters of a lagoon. One of many in the 27 miles of river systems in the New Haven jurisdiction, the lagoon provided a good testing ground for the team's effi-

ciency on an inland dive. Within 20 minutes of the initial alert, six divers were on the scene. In another four minutes four divers were in the water. About 34 minutes after the initial alert, the "body" was found.



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continued from page 46

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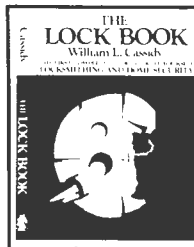
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continued from page 37

Thompson's team stayed late in the field the next day for an interview taped by Denver's Channel 7 (KMGH, a CBS affiliate). The trainees were then given survival kits and final briefings, and took up positions in the area for the 72-hour solo exercise.

The weather was good: bright, clear days and cool, dry nights. "We extended the solo period for these programs because some of the students felt that a longer period would be a better test," Thompson explained.

No books or other reading material were allowed on the solo. The idea was for each student to have a totally isolated experience—practicing what he or she had been taught and using the few materials permitted. Field notes on observations and experiences were encouraged, however, for comment and exchange of thoughts later.

Each participant was told to eat nothing for the three days and to drink only the water he carried.

"But three people disobeyed orders, ate and got sick. One became so ill he had to drop out of the program," Thompson said.

A fourth trainee contracted a virus, and a high fever forced him to leave the exercise.

"They were told not to eat for good reasons," the NRA coordinator explained. "Nine times out of ten, trainees do not know what is right to eat and what is not. It's gotten confusing; many edible plants look like inedibles. So we have taken edible plants out of our survival-training curriculum," he said.

"Besides, these edible plants have almost no caloric value whatever; they may contain a few vitamins but not much useful nourishment. There are so many look-alike plants, that we don't want people taking the chance of eating the wrong plant and becoming sick in the field."

"Along the same line, we tell people who are in a survival situation for only a few days—like pilots and their passengers—not to hunt.

"If they have little water, eating game meat will speed dehydration. So we tell 'em that unless it looks like a long-term situation, they should sit tight, conserve energy and water, and wait to be rescued."

Pilots used different kinds of shelter in the field. They started out in two-man pup tents, which were used along with shelter halves for the group-survival tests. But for

the three-day solo, each pilot built his or her own individual shelter.

Critiques of the course indicated a lively split among pilots and instructors as to which type of gun, if any, might be right for post-crash survival. Some felt the presence of any firearm would be harmful; survivors of such a trauma could become irrational and hurt each other if a gun were present.

But most seemed to agree with Foote's presentation. He said the decision to take a firearm along is a personal one. He pointed out that except for brown bear and grizzly bear habitat, there are few areas of North or South America where one might be menaced by wildlife; in some situations, the problem might be two-legged predators.

Some pilots argued that a light handgun—a .22 rimfire or .38 Special revolver with a medium length barrel—makes the best weapon for plane-crash survival. They felt that the variety of available ammunition in those calibers makes the .22 or .38 a natural choice.

Others argue that a gun like Savage's .22 magnum/20 gauge combination would be better, even if it were not so light and handy.

Most agreed that a handgun requires more expertise, making a light rifle a better tool for those unfamiliar with guns. In addition, there was a general agreement that the kind of game most downed pilots would be likeliest to kill would be small—rabbits, squirrels, birds, small rodents and the like

"Not often will you have a chance at an elk or deer," Thompson reminded the group, "even if it's an all-out survival situation and game laws don't apply."

Although it was nothing like the January, 1975 cross-country survival trek, the survival trainee had to be in reasonably good physical condition. Recent physical examinations were required for acceptance in the course. The NRA's Raton layout ranges in altitude from 6,600 feet where the Great Plains end, to 8,100 feet at the Sangre de Cristo Range's lower peaks. The weather was mostly good, although rain fell almost all one day early in the week. The exercise was held before the deep snows and biting cold descended on the Southern Rocky Mountain ranges.

Another Pilot's Survival exercise is tentatively set for January, 1978.

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continued from page 12

Furthermore, Schemmer feels the raid did have positive secondary results in that the NVA moved all POW's to Hanoi where they received somewhat better treatment and their centralized location allowed them to communicate with one another.

This book also contains some interesting background on the origin and early years of "SOG," known to the public as "Studies and Observations Group." In reality, SOG stood for "Special Operations Group" and was the OSS of Southeast Asia. In '65 and '66, it was composed of a hand-picked force of CIA operatives and volunteers from Special Forces Air Force Special Warfare Units and SEAL teams that conducted clandestine cross-border operations into North Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

Schemmer, in his "Author's Notes" at the end of the book, remarks, "Military men hate criticism as much as anybody else . . . But in writing the story of the Son Tay raid it was not my intention to criticize it. No one needs to apologize for the "failure" at Son Tay. On the contrary, when seen in its full perspective, the raid might serve our national planners as a reminder of how much a small, elite, well-trained unorthodox force can accomplish." We couldn't agree more.



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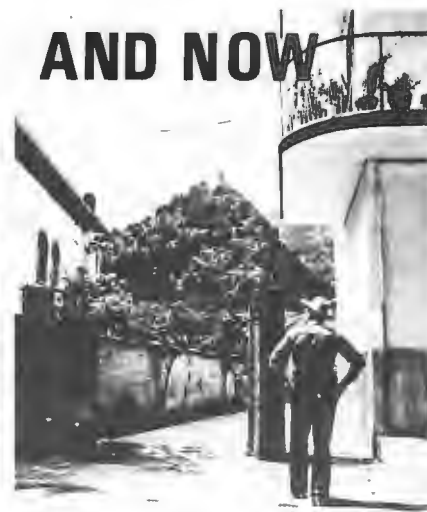
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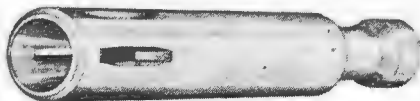
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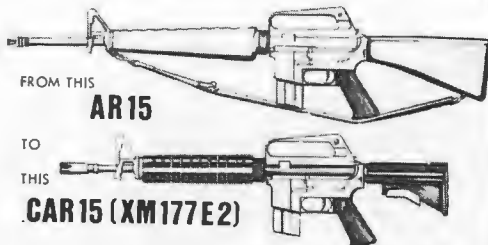
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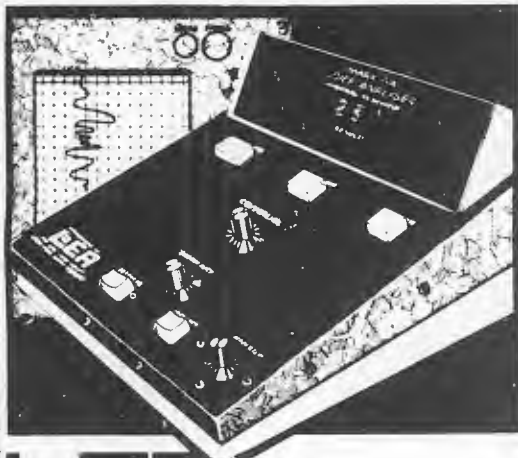
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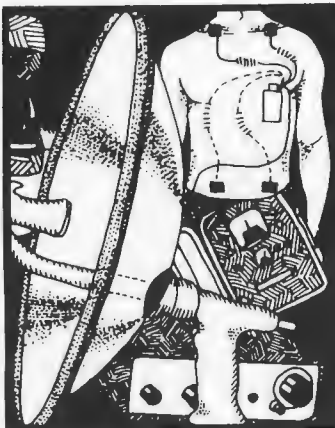
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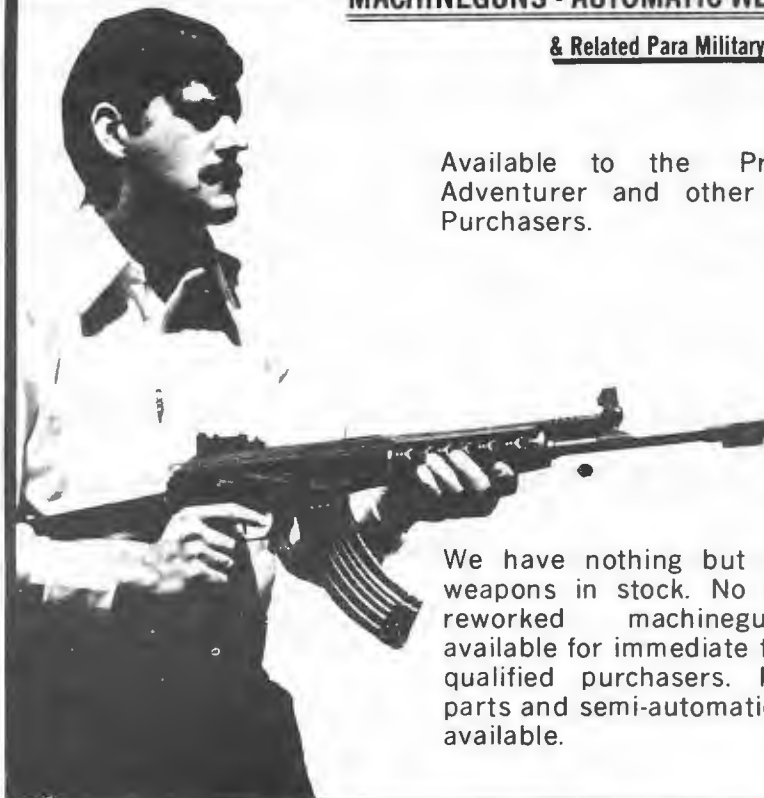
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continued from page 62

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I now have a six month old daughter. I am falling into the daddy routine a hell of a lot easier than I thought.

I am more or less maintaining the clinic that we set up and find myself reasonably busy sewing up machete cuts, removing splinters and thorns and trying (usually successfully . . .) to cure weird skin conditions. I find that I am the only person in town that really knows how to give injections and what's more I'm free! The locals purchase (rarely with prescription) vitamin supplements of an

injectable type and various "witch doctors" as I call them give these injections using filthy syringes into Christ only knows what part of the anatomy. I saw a woman inject a seven year old boy who weighed maybe fifty-five pounds with a 2½" 18 GA needle in his sciatic nerve. Aside from jumping three feet off of the table and letting out a war whoop that undoubtedly set off the earthquake in Guatamala, the woman's syringe and needle and made an enemy. Everyone comes to ME now for treat-



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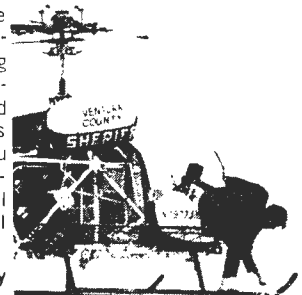


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continued from page 29

broadly, as they offloaded the boxes of medical supplies that filled the chopper. Actually, George had had little trouble procuring the other helicopter. As soon as Ramirez had heard what had happened, he immediately cancelled 714's planned mission to another area, told Gonzales to get whatever Thompson asked for, and ordered 714's crew to get back to us as soon as they had had lunch and the chopper had been refueled. Thompson was like a kid playing Santa Claus, tearing open the boxes of supplies that were now stacked outside the turbulence of the rotorwash, showing us all the stuff we had requested, and more. Speakman yelled as the chopper revved up for takeoff, "We'll be back for you at 1000 hours tomorrow morning — be here! Ramirez has another long walk in store for you turkeys!"

The five of us on the ground thought as one — tomorrow we would be ready to leave. Damn, did we feel good, or did we feel good. We'd gambled and we'd won. Team A worked until long after dark that night, treating everyone who came to us. We felt great, and we obviously showed it, for the feeling was infectious — the entire village felt great. Everything was warmth and smiles. Later that night, we celebrated with the villagers. We ate steak (from the sacrificial cow) and beans and rice and stacks of corn tortillas, and someone in the village came up with several bottles of very ancient beer — and beer never tasted as good as it did to those of us of Team Alpha that night, sitting around a pitchwood fire, talking

and laughing with the happy villagers high on a mountain top in Central America. We slept well for the first time in several days.

Up again at dawn, we treated people until 10 a.m., as there was still some medicine left. We gave it to the local medicine man with instructions of how and when to use it. We were out at the LZ shortly after 10 a.m. Thousands of Indian villagers were there to see us off — offering us fresh fruit, salty goat cheese wrapped in large green leaves, tortillas and an ultrasweet cookie made from sugar cane. It was a beautiful, happy time. Grateful tears from the old women of the village, giggles from the pretty young girls in their brightly-colored, handwoven holiday garments, and looks of awe from the multitude of young boys that crowded around us on the ridge that day. At 1030 hours, we picked up the sound of the helicopter and then Speakman's voice, "Turkey One, Turkey One, this is Chopper 714, you guys ready to go this time?"

"714, this is Turkey One, that is affirm, repeat, affirm — come and get us," Thompson replied.

We had two more medivacs to take out with us. We gently loaded them aboard, mounted up, took off, and were on our way back to Guatemala City.

The rest of the time we spent in Guatemala was almost anticlimactic, with only a few highlights, such as a jeep ride into a river canyon on the remains of the world's worst excuse for a road, that made our bottle ride appear like a Sunday stroll in the park, "losing" Darley

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and Miller for a day in the middle of an area controlled by Communist Guerrillas unexpectedly finding another area with large numbers of sick and severely injured requiring several medivac choppers, a "terrorist" attack on a medical convoy nearby, and being decorated by the Guatemalan Government.

All in all, the three teams had treated almost 2,000 victims of the earthquake and covered over 1,000 kilometers of ground on foot — not a bad ten days' work.



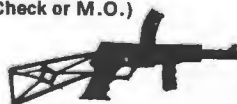
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continued from page 59

those were Skorzeny's agents — mainly because Skorzeny was not a cloak-and-dagger type, but a command-style soldier. It is more likely that the Germans who carried those dummy cigarettes were either Abwehr or Gestapo agents.

Supposedly, the phony cigarette acted as the blowgun itself, although with such a short tube, the effective range couldn't have been more than a few feet. As a quiet eliminator, it may have worked and, as a bonus, it gave the agent an excellent chance to commit suicide if captured.

Blowguns are extremely simple and cheap to make. Less than \$5.00 will buy all the materials needed, including those for the darts. Any hardware store will carry everything needed. The tube itself must be of seamless aluminum or brass tubing, with a bore diameter of not less than 1/4" and not more than 3/4". (Most commercial blowguns currently available are .38 caliber.) Any diameter in-between is perfectly ok as long as the tube has a minimum length of 2 1/2 ft. The length of the tube should depend upon the intended use of the blowgun. If it is going to be used for hunting, the tube should have a minimum length of 5 ft., and a maximum length of about 7 1/2 ft., since any gain in accuracy beyond that length would be offset by decreased muzzle velocity due to friction. This of course applies only to metal darts.

If darts made of lighter materials, such as bamboo or palm ribs, are going to be used, then the tube can be 8 or 9 ft. in length. It should be borne in mind that a blowgun dart must achieve optimum penetration in order to puncture a vital organ if poison is not employed. A tube of 2 or 3 ft. can still be very effective with the proper dart, at distances of up to 12 yards.

It is **absolutely** essential that the tube selected by as straight as possible. If any cutting is to be done, the edges of the cut must be ground in order to remove any burrs. A mouthpiece should always be used, preferably made of plastic or hard rubber. Some type of rudimentary front sight should be added to the end of the tube. Just about anything that will stick up and give a point of reference in relation to a target will do.

Finding the right type of dart for a given tube can be a challenging task. All darts must have an efficient air seal, properly designed and of enough weight to act also as a counter-balance. Common finishing nails of more than 3" in length, paired with stopper corks, work very well. The nails are driven through the center of the corks and the latter are trimmed down to 1/16" in diameter less than the inside diameter of the blowgun. Paper cones glued to the base of the shaft also work efficiently.

Really enterprising blowgunners adhering to the "magnum" principle can use darning needles 8 to 10 inches long,

with 3/4 inch long cork or wooden dowels as air seal/counter-balance. A couple of thin scalpel blades, glued near the tip of the dart, on different planes, complete the works. Blown out of a .50 cal. X 7 Ft. long blowgun, these "magnum" darts are almost as lethal as a hunting arrow at ranges of up to 15 or 20 yards.

For those who like to "go native," darts can be made from materials available from nature. The ribs of palm leaves are excellent. So are darts made out of long slivers of bamboo. Cotton can be effectively used as air seal material. In the case of poisoned darts made of brittle materials, it is a good idea to nick the shaft of the dart approximately one inch back from the tip. This ensures that, upon striking the quarry, the dart will break at the nick, leaving the poisoned tip firmly embedded in the wound, making it almost impossible to pull it out in time to stop the action of the poison.

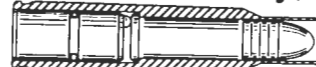
All darts must be sharpened to a fine point in order to facilitate maximum penetration. Hunting darts should be painted with a bright color, such as blaze orange.

Individuals with a bit of machine shop know-how can make take-down blowguns by cutting the tube into three or four sections and then carefully turning down and threading the applicable ends of the sections. In this fashion, a complete hunting blowgun with an ample supply of darts can be unobtrusively carried in briefcase or suitcase. This is especially advantageous to those who travel widely. In fact, a blowgun kit such as the one that I have just described should be a vital part of any serious survival kit. Small edible game, like rabbits or squirrels, can be quietly and easily taken and the darts can be retrieved from the dead animals and used again and again with only an occasional resharpening.

The modern professional adventurer/soldier of fortune can't afford **not** to be well-versed in the latest small-arms developments and their practical application. It also behooves him to be well-versed in the usage of one of the simplest, yet deadliest of all small arms: the blowgun.



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continued from page 39

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ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

This column will feature new weapons and products that we feel will be of interest to the professional adventurer. The items mentioned in this issue were observed by SOF staff members at the National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers Show in Denver, Colorado, on December 4-6, 1976.



Dan Wesson, the creator of the interchangeable barrelled revolver, discusses his newest model, the 15-2VH Series, with SOF publisher, Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown. This model features, in addition to the amazing interchangeable barrels in 8", 6", 4" and 2½" lengths, with ventilated rib and interchangeable colored front sight blades, adjustable rear sights, with white outline, a Brite

Blue finish and an oversized target grip. We were amazed at the ease and speed that the barrels can be changed, making the Dan Wesson the only revolver any man would need, covering any use that you'd like to put a revolver to. For further information, contact:

Dan Wesson Arms, Inc.
Dept. SF, 293 Main Street
Monson, Massachusetts 01057



Another prototype of interest is this .380 auto (9mm short) from the Plainfield Machine Company. It will be available in a single action or a new type of double action. The latter is actuated by pressure on the back strap, rather than trigger pull, so that you have the same trigger pressure from shot one through the last. William Storck, President of Plainfield, told us that he expects these .380 auto to go on sale in the fall of 1977, and that a .45 ACP will follow, a month later. The .380 will sell for approx. \$140, and the .45 for approx. \$160. For further information, write:

Plainfield Machin Company
Dept. SF; Box 447
Dunellen, New Jersey 08812



SOF staffer, Art Gitlin, talks with Ira Trast and Bob Lippman of Numrich Arms Corp., about the newest models of the Semi-Auto Thompson. Ira told us that the prototype .22 cal. should be available some time around April or May 1977. The .45 in standard and de-

lux models, are ready now, with 5, 20, 30 round magazines and a 40 round drum. Write for a free catalog to:

Numrich Arms Corp.
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A prototype double-action .45 from Sterling Arms was a pleasant surprise at the show. A nine round staggered mag., adjustable sights and adjustable barrel bushing, and many other new and valuable features, as well as a retail price of around \$265., should make this new auto a real top seller. Combat shooters, this one's designed with you in mind. It should be available around July 1977. For more information, contact:

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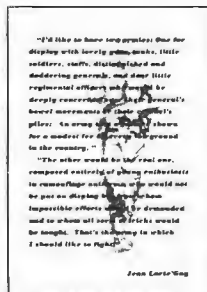
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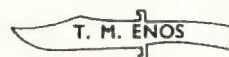
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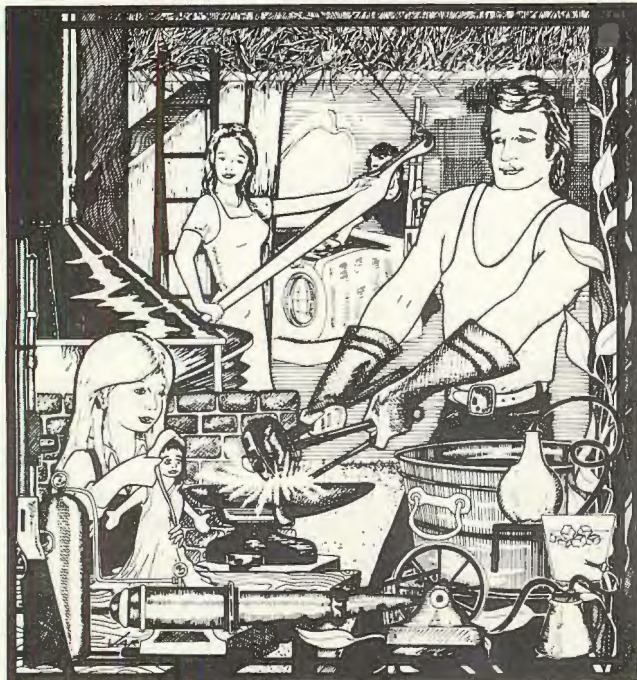
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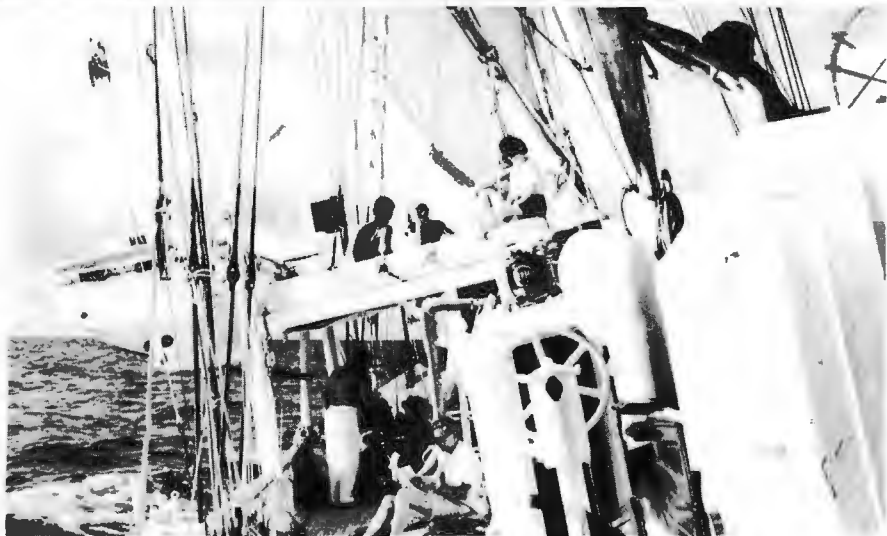
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